

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate your level of confidence that the Interior Department would issue the workers regulations this month?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

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Local Shirts

Angel Demapan works to increase the presence of local apparel in the Northern Marianas.

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Naked Aggression

China warns its neighbors to stop searching for oil in the Spratlys without its permission.

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Hard Times

These are difficult times for arts programs in schools across the country.

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Eye institute's storage shed thrice burglarized in a year. **PAGE 3**
Half the country wilts under unrelenting heat. **PAGE 10**

Geneva Cruz in concert tonight

Filipino singer Geneva Cruz is on island for the first time to perform with The Retrospect Band in a concert tonight at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Cruz also looks forward to meeting the Filipino community on island on Sunday at the 2011 *Pistang Pinoy* that marks the 113th Philippine Independence Day celebration.

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Chamber to DHS: Deliver us from uncertainty

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan told U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on Tuesday that the delayed release of the transitional worker regulations "is so unfair to so many that have made their corporate and literal lives" in the CNMI.

Nov. 27, 2011, is the last day of the two-year grace period that the federalization law allows. After that, everyone who does not have some immigration status issued by the U.S. government—like the Commonwealth-only worker status whose regulations have yet to be released—will be "out of status" and subject to deportation.

"The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of

See **CHAMBER** on **Page 4**



Brennan



FBI mum on use of lie detector test

» **Third day of search at Marpi landfill yields no clues**

After another grueling day of scouring portions of the Marpi landfill to look for clues or evidence that could be linked to the disappearance of sisters Famola and Maleina Luhk, FBI agents and CNMI firefighters and police officers walk back to a makeshift operation center under a tent late yesterday afternoon. The sisters have been missing since May 25, triggering a massive search operation by federal and local authorities, supported by hundreds of volunteers.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An FBI special agent said yesterday that polygraph tests are one of the tools they use to investigate cases of missing persons, but he refused to say whether they have used this tool in the case of missing sisters Maleina and Faloma Luhk.

As this developed, 40 FBI and CNMI personnel

again failed yesterday to find any clues at the Marpi landfill that could shed light on the girls' mysterious disappearance on May 25. The team, which began the search at the landfill on Wednesday, will continue scouring a portion of the garbage heap today, Saturday.

FBI special agent Tom Simon said the polygraph test or lie detector test is one of the many tools that

See **FBI** on **Page 4**

Local

Press secretary shows off his artsy side with shirt business



CLARISSA DAVID

Shirts under the 82 Threads Co. brand are shown on display at the Rock Steady booth at the Flame Tree Arts Festival.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

When Angel Demapan is not busy coordinating meetings and writing press releases for the governor on Capital Hill, he is hard at work doing graphic design and running his T-shirt business.

Demapan founded 82 Threads Co. in 2006 in Honolulu, Hawaii as a way for CNMI residents living abroad to represent their identity and pride for their homeland.

"Today, 82 Threads Co. is proud to return to its roots as an up-and-coming business

venture here in Saipan," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

82 Threads Co., Demapan said, is envisioned to increase the presence of local apparel in the Northern Marianas.

According to Demapan, the island's apparel industry has evolved into a whole new class of artists, with its own unique influences and audiences.

"At the end of the day, it's gratifying to offer our valued customers good, quality clothing that at the same time defines who you are and where you're from. This is our home, this is our culture. Reflecting our spirits on fabric is a great way to showcase our greatness as islanders," he explained.

82 Threads Co. offers two clothing brands: Marianas Built and Poksu.

"The Marianas Built brand

is already a fan favorite," said Demapan. "The brand pays tribute to the islands' cultures and traditions."

Poksu, which means "accurate" or "precise" in Chamorro, has a more modern look and feel and is also gaining a respectable fan base from military service members, athletes, and young adults.

"The Poksu brand has already sponsored two softball teams that have won two consecutive championships in as many outings," said Demapan.

All products of 82 Threads Co., Demapan said, are available at the 670 Rock Steady Shop along Middle Road. He said the company also plans to launch a clothing line for women and children.

Demapan said that 82 Threads Co. merchandise will also be available at the Flame Tree Arts Festival under the Rock Steady booth.

Board of Parole backs more prison time for sex offenders

The Board of Parole supports a bill that seeks to increase the amount of jail time sexual offenders must serve before they become eligible for parole.

Acting Parole Board chair Rose Ada-Hocog said the time-served component of a sentence is currently too low in cases of sexual abuse of a minor and sexual assault where a convicted sex offender may be paroled after serving only a third of a sentence.

"The legislative example of a victim who is 11 to 16 years of age would be no older than 16 or 21 years of age when the need to testify at a parole would arise perfectly illustrates the need for increasing the time-

served component necessary for parole eligibility," Ada-Hocog said in a letter to Rep. Rafael S. Demapan, chairman of the House Judicial and Government Operations.

House Bill 17-193 was introduced by Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez. It seeks to establish mandatory sentences for sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor.

There is currently no minimum mandatory penalty for some crimes involving sexual violence, only maximum sentences.

H.B. 17-193 is now with Demapan's committee for review. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Eye institute's storage shed thrice burglarized in a year

A storage shed of the Marianas Eye Institute in Garapan was burglarized early this week, reportedly the third such incident in a one-year period.

NMI Crime Stoppers Program coordinator Jason Tarkong said yesterday that the items most recently stolen were

a black Kawasaki bush cutter model #TD-20 worth \$499, and a black Poulan Lawn mower valued at \$300.

Tarkong said a maintenance employee of the Marianas Eye Institute discovered the burglary on Wednesday at 7:45am, at the storage shed lo-

cated behind the clinic.

The shed's door was locked at 6:30pm on Tuesday but was found slightly open the following morning.

Tarkong said the point of entry was possibly between the roof and wall of the storage

shed. The suspect or suspects, he said, possibly climbed into the storage room and unlocked the door from the inside.

Russ Quinn, the chief executive officer of the Marianas Eye Institute, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that it was actually the

third bush cutter and the third lawn mower stolen from the same shed, with this week's incident being the third time they were burglarized in a one-year period.

Quinn said they called the police each time and that no one has been arrested and no stolen item was ever recovered.

He said they've tried different things to increase the security of

the storage shed such as putting bars around it, among others.

"Obviously I'm a little bit upset that someone continues to break into our clinic and we have to spend money to replace the equipment," Quinn said.

The clinic itself has never had any break in, he said, because they have tight security. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Some Saipan lawmakers not dressing properly for sessions

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Arguing over dress code may seem trivial, but some lawmakers said the Rules of Procedure of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation should be followed all the time.

During a delegation session on Thursday, House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said the rules have been established to be followed and abiding by the dress code policy affords respect to the legislative body.

"I am not recommending we remove it. ...I would argue that we should keep it," he told his colleagues.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said he's glad that the body is discussing the dress code "no matter how trivial."

"We have rules. ...We have to abide by the rules," he said.

Rule V, Section 8, Dress Code, of the delegation rules requires all members, officers, and employees appearing on the floor to be "suitably attired. Men shall wear a shirt, tie, slacks, and shoes."

But some delegation members have been attending the sessions wearing shirt and no ties. In previous sessions, officers would call for a short break so that some members could get a tie from their office and wear them during the session.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), who was not wearing a tie on Thursday, said what matters is that members wear a nice shirt, and not necessarily with a tie. He said island wear is also proper attire, and that lawmakers should focus on doing their job, including finding ways to generate revenue and control spending.

Cabrera also said there are some members who wear a tie but wear "Levi's," referring to a pair of jeans. But his colleagues later said coat and tie with jeans are now fashionably acceptable.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said a "shirt" could also be a T-shirt.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) suggested that the delegation chairman, Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), should also specify during calls for sessions that members should come with island wear or tie.

In the end, members agreed that the dress code should be followed, including wearing a tie, during sessions.

After discussing the dress code and the appointment of an acting mayor as required by Saipan Local Law 17-8, the delegation adjourned without passing a local bill, although floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) placed on the bill calendar two zoning-related measures, including one from the speaker.

SHEFA credit requirement for advanced degrees cut to 9

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance has reduced the number of its credit requirements for graduates, post-graduate, and advanced degrees from 12 to just nine starting fall 2012 semester.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider said the board approved the credit reduction at its last meeting.

The issue about the full-time credit requirements for master's students surfaced after the new SHEFA management and board refused to reimburse some scholars who only obtained nine full-time credits, instead of the 12 credits required.

Recently, 18 Framingham State University students appealed the denial of their financial applications, saying the previous board had agreed to the nine-credit requirement and that they are entitled for the reimbursement because their applications were initially approved by the previous board. The requested reimbursement is for the fall 2010 semester. They said the previous board promised to reimburse their expenses once the awards are available.

The board, however, did not take action on their appeal last Wednesday.

Board chair Jose Mafnas referred the matter to the appeals and awards committees, which will recommend action to the

board. "I don't know yet if they can be provided reimbursement or adjustment," said Mafnas, who cited the program's current cash-flow problem.

Hofschneider said that they have found no records in all board meeting minutes from 2008 to 2010 that the board had adopted to change the full-time credit requirements from 12 to

nine credits.

"It was never amended," said Hofschneider, adding that although it was discussed and approved in previous board meetings, the changes in the regulation was never published in the *Commonwealth Register* and therefore never became official.

"The April 27, 2009 pub-

lished amendments did not effectively amend it. This finding is supported by the fact that section 21 provided for only part-time status and nothing that effectively changed the requirement that graduate and post-graduate students must carry 12 or more credits to meet full-time status," explained the administrator.



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Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI
Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011
Name: Luhk, Maleina
Age: 9 years old
Height: 4 feet
Weight: 50-60 pounds
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown
Body: Petite
Complexion: Tan
Characteristics: Circle birthmark left cheek
Last wearing: White blouse and jeans



Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI
Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011
Name: Luhk, Faloma
Age: 10 years old
Height: 5.1 feet
Weight: 90 pounds
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Short brown
Body: Petite
Complexion: Tan
Last wearing: Light green shirt with a butterfly design on the front with blue jeans



DPS is seeking help from the public. Please call 911 or contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000.00 for any information leading to an arrest. Additional \$1,000.00 is also being offered!

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to inform the General Public that Ms. Arlene D. Hart is no longer connected with **Ecosure Insurance** effective immediately. Any transaction made by her on behalf of the company from the date of this Notice shall be rendered null and void.

The Management

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of:	Case No.:
DAVIS LOREN	11-0107
JOAB	NOTICE
Deceased	OF
	HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on the 14th day of June 2011, at 1:30 p.m., in the Courtroom of the Honorable Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, there shall be a hearing to appoint Mr. Bill Bezzant as Administrator of the Estate of Davis Loren Joab, deceased.

If any person objects to this appointment they should appear at the above noted hearing and present their objection.

Any creditors of the decedent must make a claim against the Estate within 60 days of the date of this Notice or be barred from such thereafter.

Claims may be filed with the Law Office of Lorena A. Sutton at the address in the letterhead, above or with the Superior Court Clerk's office in Susupe, Saipan

Dated: 6/6/2011

/s/ Clerk of the Superior Court



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Acting governor Eloy Inos, center, is flanked by public health officials and nurses during a proclamation signing yesterday where he endorsed June 12 to 18 as CNMI Nurses Week in recognition of their important role in the health care system.

DPH deploys nurses in search of Luhk sisters

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health has deployed its nursing staff to help in the search for Faloma and Maleina Luhk, who disappeared on May 25.

DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said nurses have been assigned to

join search teams to ensure the health of volunteers and law enforcers taking part in the search are taken cared of.

A day after the sisters' disappearance, four to five nurses, including managers, were assigned daily to the Incident Command Post at the Kagman Community Center, said acting nursing director Gayline Blau.

"Throughout the rescue mission in Kagman, we had four to five nurses and managers who were on the site to provide assistance. Some other nurses also volunteered on the first days because they know that the search covered bigger areas," said Blau.

When volunteers began looking for clues at the Marpi landfill this week,

the Commonwealth Health Center assigned one nurse at the new site.

"The area is hot, windy, and stinks. Our designated nurse monitors the blood pressure of the folks that are searching to ensure that their health is also being taken care of...and our nurses will be there whenever they are done," assured Villagomez.

Acting governor Eloy Inos has proclaimed June 12 to 18 as CNMI Nurses Week in recognition of their important role in the nation's health care system. He urged everyone to join in honoring nurses by celebrating their accomplishments and efforts to improve the health care system.

"I also encourage all our residents to show our appreciation for the nation's nurses not just during this week but at every opportunity throughout the year," said Inos during yesterday's

proclamation signing ceremony at the public health conference room.

Inos assured nurses that their concerns and interests will continue to be heard by the administration even as the Health Department transitions into an independent public health corporation.

According to Villagomez, the entry of 12 nursing assistants next week will bring a new chapter to the CNMI nursing group. These additional nursing assistants are graduating seniors at Saipan Southern High School's nursing assistant program.

He said nurses are not only pillars of health care in the community and the nation but also the largest pool of health workers.

"Definitely, we will take care of you because you're taking care of us... thank you for all your services," added Villagomez.

Senate poised to confirm Mafnas, Larson as DPS and Finance chiefs

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The Senate is poised to confirm on Monday the governor's nominations of Ramon Mafnas and Larrisa Larson as secretaries of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Finance, respectively.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, told Saipan Tribune yesterday that the panel is endorsing the full Senate confirmation of the two appointees.

"The Senate will be confirming them because we don't see any objections to their nominations," Cruz said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the Fitial administration looks forward to a favorable action by the full Senate.

"The two posts are very critical and difficult to fill, so we definitely would like to secure the confirmation of these nominations," he said.

Cruz reiterated that as chairman of the EAGI Committee, he has made it a point to ask the nominees during public hearings on their nominations about issues affecting Tinian and Rota including scholarship and funding for other municipal programs and activities.

The Senate will hold a session on Monday, when the nominations are expected to be confirmed.

Larson's expected confirmation will

come barely six days after the Senate held a public hearing on her nomination as Finance secretary, a post she has been holding in a temporary or acting capacity since Jan. 10 this year. On April 5, the governor submitted her name to the Senate as his nominee to become the next Finance secretary.

The Senate held a public hearing on Mafnas' nomination on May 2, wherein he shared with senators the ongoing changes at DPS, with the end goal of raising deserving police officers' wages, further improving public safety services, and ensuring accountability, among other things.

Mafnas, a former commissioner of the Department of Corrections, also served as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's senior policy advisor.

The governor said Mafnas will be the likely commissioner when DPS and Corrections are merged by next fiscal year.

FBI

From Page 1

they use in this type of investigations. "We use [polygraph] both to identify persons of interest and to clear other people so we can move on to more productive investigative avenues," said Simon, the FBI Honolulu's media relations coordinator.

When asked whether the FBI has used the polygraph test on any "persons of interest" in their investigation into the Luhk sisters' case, Simon said he will not talk about evidence that has been gathered or specific investigative tools they are using.

"But I will tell you that in this type of investigation, polygraph test is one of the many tools that we do use. I don't want to get into specifics as to who has been polygraphed or hasn't been polygraphed," he added.

Simon also refused to discuss specific investigative steps that have

been taken.

As for the search at the dumpsite, Simon they did not find anything yesterday and that they will continue the search today.

"We're making excellent progress in the area of the dump that we believe represent the relevant time period," he said.

Simon said if they can eliminate the dump as a place of interest, that will allow them to move on to more productive areas.

Yesterday, 11 FBI agents were joined by 20 personnel from the Department of Public Safety's Fire and Police Divisions, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Public Health, Division of Environmental Quality, and Emergency Management Office.

"It's hot, exhausting!" Simon said of the search.

He said they're looking for backpacks and anything else that might constitute as evidence of what happened to the girls.

He said they are searching the garbage collected not only in the As Teo area on May 24 and 25, but the trash picked up from the entire island during that period of time.

"As long as we continue seeing newspapers on the 24th and the 25th [here], we know we are on the right track," he said.

While the search at the landfill continues, Simon said that other FBI agents continue work with police officers to run down leads.

With the girls' disappearance entering its 17th day today, Simon encourages the public to continue calling in leads to the FBI and police.

"We take every call seriously and we want to keep the girls in the forefront of our lines in this community. I don't want the public to get bored with the story and move on. I want them to be engaged with the story, to continue to think, talk among themselves, and call in anything that may be relevant to the FBI or the police," he said.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

our membership, our business community and the thousands of employees and their dependents and residents, beseeches the Department of Homeland Security to please deliver us from this uncertainty," Brennan said in a June 7 letter to Napolitano.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in the CNMI with 151 members.

Brennan, who is also general manager of Microl Corp., said with only 25 weeks to go, the Chamber does not have a hint of when the regulations will be issued.

"People need to plan their lives, companies need to plan and estimate their investments and budgets, and the combination of those literally determine the economy of the CNMI. How can businesses and residents expect to live and survive when they are unaware of what is expected of them just 195 days around from now?" he asked.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, the CNMI's first nonvoting delegate to the U.S. Congress, as well as Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, said there is no telling when DHS will be able to issue the worker regulations.

This has been frustrating and upsetting employers, employees, prospective foreign and local investors, and

many others in the community.

The uncertainty caused by federalization is adding to the problems of a sputtering CNMI economy.

Brennan, in his two-page letter to Napolitano, said businesses continue to depend on workers from outside the CNMI. But they can only recruit from abroad when there is no available worker within the CNMI, or any other U.S. area.

With U.S. Public Law 110-229, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control on Nov. 28, 2009, Brennan said CNMI businesses are adjusting to new regulations. He said some CNMI companies have already assisted essential workers in petitioning for new federal employment visas.

"There are a greater number of employees, with their assisting companies, that would not qualify for those employment visas, but who are allowed to remain in the CNMI through the transition period to work. These employees, and the companies that employ them, are painfully awaiting the issuance of those DHS transitional Commonwealth-only worker regulations. It is 25 weeks until the CW-1 regulations take effect and we have not a hint of when they will be issued," Brennan added.

Copies of the letter were also sent to the CNMI delegate, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Interior's Babauta, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service Director Alejandro Mayorkas.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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Mired in a sex scandal? Don't make it worse

By MARK WASHBURN
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Thank you, gentlemen, for attending this seminar titled "Ethical Fulcrums of Political Integrity for Lecherous Pigs."

Because this is a remedial course, we'll skip over Lesson One, "What Were You Thinking?" and get right to Lesson Two, "You Were Thinking You'd Get Away With It? Seriously?"

Congressman Weiner, let's use you as an example. In looking back over your case, you made a few minor errors. Sexting images of your face and other scenic splendors to strangers and porn stars always falls under the heading, "Probably Not a Good Idea." Your case was compounded by your unfortunate name, "Anthony." Inept handling of inquiries as to whether the nether region in question was actually yours may have made things worse.

This leads us to Lesson Three, "This Is No Time for a Memorable Speech."

Remember, when in the Deny-Deny-Deny phase, it is essential that you not spout pithy quotes. You want to sound like the chairman of the Federal Reserve, not Mark Twain. Avoid phrases like "with certitude," "tabloid trash," "wide stance" or "Appalachian Trail." Such talk has peculiar sticking power in the public imagination.

Mr. Edwards, if you'll put the comb down a second, we'll see what can be learned from your approach. When we sent you to the Senate, so you could spend half your freshman term running for president, we were relying on you to show good judgment. Hiring your fuzzy-numpkins on the campaign staff, impregnating same and cooking up a kooky cover-up was not Solomon-like. It was more like a subplot in "Hangover III."

Put down the mirror, Arnold, and please see Lesson Four, "If Lying Fails, Try Coming Clean."

All of you need to be mindful of the serious consequences of a political sex scandal. Getting caught can lead to ridicule, indictment or a talk-show gig on CNN.

Mr. Sanford, you are the case study for Lesson Five, "Enough Already."

After making your public confession, do not stick around explaining in detail how you've located your soul mate on some distant shore, how you yearn to bask in her radiance, how the world wobbles in her presence. This is more than anyone deserves to know and only encourages the lonely to re-up on Match.com.

People recognize that a certain amount of deception goes with mating behavior everywhere in the animal kingdom, ranging from vivid plumage to padded bosoms. This is widely understood and tolerated. Whole sectors of our economy are built on it.

We are a forgiving people. Most of us have dirty laundry, too. We just can't forgive deliberate falsehoods from those we elect. In politics, that's the line you can't cross.

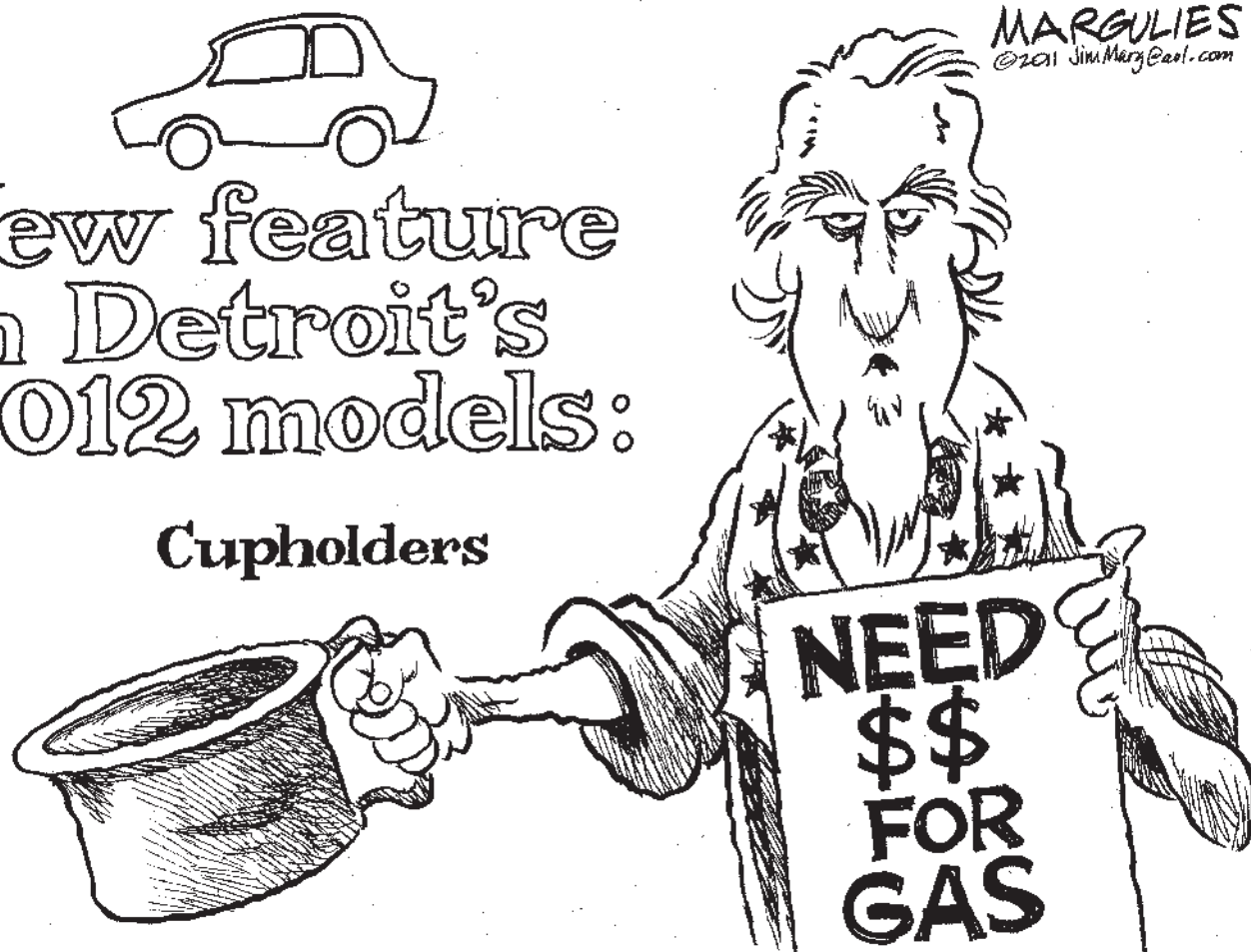
Those of you who came clean right off, you can leave. You may even be eligible for a comeback.

Rep. Weiner and Mr. Edwards, your homework is Lesson Six: "Pants on Fire."

Mark Washburn is a columnist for the Charlotte Observer. Readers may send him email at mwashburn@charlotteobserver.com.

New feature in Detroit's 2012 models:

Cupholders



Maharlika

A space geographically delineated becomes a place, defining boundaries and organizing the people in it makes it a society, roofs on dwelling makes houses, and passion parked in the living room turns it into a home.

A home with people of defined relations make it a family, and where individuals reside with skills for self-sufficiency, an attitude of self-reliance, and the secured knowledge of self-confidence, wholesome and compassionate personality growth happens. Passion comes naturally to the human specie but compassion takes some intentional doing.

The Philippines commemorates its Independence Day on June 12. It is a nation with a demonstrated passion. It is slowly working out its definition of compassion. To date, it has been living off the definitions provided by the Holy Roman Empire through Spain and the Catholic Church, the ambivalent *hauté* republicanism of imperial America and Midwest Protestantism, and the oligarchic rule of the landed gentry whose self-serving conservatism has so far steered its economic course to luxuriate 3,000 extended families and nurture from morsel droppings off the aristocratic tables 90 million creatures who call it home.

President Ferdinand Marcos wanted to rename the place *Maharlika*, an ancient word referring to the upper class of the people residing in the Tagalog region of Luzon in what the Spaniards called *Las Islas Filipinas* (Phillip's Islands). *Mahal na likha*, "precious creatures," might be the etymology of the word. In the Malayo-Polynesian social pecking order, the name referred to the "royal" class, though it need not be equated with the royal houses of the West but more to the stratified filial relations of Asia.

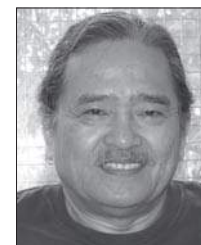
With Singapore's Confucian Lee Kwan Yew as example, Ferdinand mistakenly misread the consent of the country's clannish ethno-linguistic groups in his supercilious attempts at reform, and underestimated the tenacity of the landed gentry to willingly relinquish power. His version of *Today's Revolution: Democracy* took on the belligerent face of martial law. Even his own Ilocano constituency proved to be a divided house.

The *malal na likha* in the June 12 historical commemoration, had he had his way, but for the vehement objection of the great plebian Mabini, would have been Emilio Aguinaldo's self-designation as the Great Dictator. There is nothing democratic about the Kawit, Cavite declaration more than a century ago. However, in the tradition of the French Third Republic (1870-1940), where the slogan *liberté, égalité, fraternité* flourish, Kawit liberated itself from the shackles of external sovereign rule in 1898. Unfortunately, the nation never transcended its *Laban* (fight) stance, and *égalité* remains to be a promise yet to be attained.

The United States just acquired (the diplomatic euphemism for forcefully taking over) Hawaii at the time (later declared an illegal act by the Supreme Court), and its *haute* Republicans

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



eyed its own niche in the promising China market then being carved out by Europe and Japan. Uncle Sam had no intention of relinquishing the former colony once the Spanish-American war ended but embarked in a superficial but arrogant mission to civilize Darwin's primates.

The *chamori* of the Marianas descended from the *maharlika*, which shows that the linguistic, cultural and genetic tie between the two groups is closer than what is normally acknowledged. Our interest, however, is on the *malal na likha* self-identity, not on the *maharlika* as a privileged social status, the "precious creature" born into original blessing rather than the curse of original sin.

On my first day at Shenyang Aerospace University, I recalled historical events in Manchuria and mentioned Shenyang's old name, Mukden, which the Russians and the Japanese used. I got blank stares from the students, and after I forcefully asked if anyone ever heard of Mukden, one of the girls boldly responded: "That's a name foreigners called us." "China" is also what the Persians called the people of the Qin and the word traveled to Europe and back through the Silk Road and East of Europe became the mysterious realm of China. The natives, however, call themselves people of the middle realm, *Zhongguo ren*.

China, like the Philippines, is the retained name of the country, but it does not illuminate people's functional identity. People of the Middle Realm (*Zhongguo*) more accurately describe the yin-yang ways of the realm. Does *maharlika*, "precious creatures," in any way do the same for Filipinos? For some of the Pinoy, world-wise and street-smart, including those in diaspora, myself included, we respond with a resounding, "Yes!"

The *maharlika*, however, has a creative but formidable task beyond the entrenched parasitic powers of the oligarchy in *Malacañang* (Presidential Palace), the *Batasan* (legislature) and Makati's PSE (the nation's phantom wealth factory), along with the archaic irrelevance of the churches and the misplaced dynamism of the mosque. Capturing and transforming the *maharlika* spirit for the 21st century is today's revolution, and it is to the cause of self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and self-confidence that we join in celebrating Philippine Independence Day.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Obama strikes a gusher of truth

By **MICHAEL J. WILSON**

Americans for Democratic Action

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PRO WASHINGTON—In 1981, I was a door-to-door canvasser for the Citizen Labor Energy Coalition.

It was a memorable year for other reasons, too. Charles and Diana were wed. MTV was born. Muhammad Ali fought, and lost, his final fight. President Reagan survived an assassination attempt, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat did not. Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman on the Supreme Court. The first space shuttle shot spectacularly into space.

Ah, those were the days. I also remember being appalled as gas prices doubled from 1979 to \$1.35 a gallon. This was just a few years after the first oil crisis forced Americans nationwide into lengthy gas lines and smaller, more fuel-efficient cars.

It was clear the country needed an energy policy that didn't depend on deregulating the oil industry or throwing more tax breaks at them, hoping it would lead to greater fuel efficiency and less reliance on foreign oil.

Fast forward 30 years to 2011; gas prices tickling \$4 a gallon, a nation growing increasingly reliant on foreign oil—and the U.S. military ever more entrenched in the oil-rich Mideast.

Here we are and still in need of an energy policy. And who is to blame for the lack of progress? Is it President Obama, the oil companies, or members of Congress? The answer is no, yes and yes.

A recent CNN poll showed 61 percent of the public place a "great deal of blame" on oil companies versus 25 percent who blame President Obama.

It's easy to see why the companies get blamed. The "Big Five" oil companies—ExxonMobil, Chevron, Royal Dutch Shell, ConocoPhillips and BP—reported a combined first quarter profit of \$62.7 billion. Since 2000, their combined profits approach \$1 trillion.

That's right, as government funds are being slashed for infant formula for low-income mothers, Medicare, Head Start programs, the Peace Corps and high-speed rail, while teachers, firefighters and police are being laid off by the boatload—Big Oil's \$4 billion in tax breaks remains secure.

President Obama has proposed ending these subsidies. Congressional Republicans—the party of low taxes and free markets—however, continue to fight to retain every oil industry tax break, refusing to even consider or comprehend their hypocrisy.

For example, Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, who infamously apologized to BP after it devastated the Gulf of Mexico, defended the subsidies as incentives needed to save companies like ExxonMobil from going bust. You and I should be so lucky as to go bust like ExxonMobil.

Since 1998, the oil and gas industry spent more than \$1 billion on lobbying, according to OpenSecrets.org. Poor Rep. Barton only got \$161,870 in contributions in 2010.

It's clear to see why our 1981 energy policy can't get changed.

The companies like it, their protectors in Congress like it, even some presidents liked it.

While President Obama has tried to help shift to green energy and rely less on imported oil, he followed an oil ticket to the White House.

In 2000 and 2004, the Republicans won with oilmen George W. Bush and Dick Cheney at both ends of the presidential ticket.

Change is hard. But if \$4 a gallon gas doesn't do it, maybe \$5 a gallon might. Don't think it's not coming. One thing is for sure: We are never going to see 1981's \$1.35 again.

In "The Path to Power," historian Robert Caro described the political ambitions of Lyndon Johnson in 1940, then a 32-year-old congressman. Johnson, born dirt poor and still struggling, surprisingly turned down a lobbyist's offer of a lucrative interest in an oil business. "It would kill me politically," Johnson explained.

It was clear that Rep. Johnson had unlimited ambition and high hopes for his political future. It was also clear that he believed that no oilman could be elected president. Ah, those were the days.

Big Oil has little to do with pump prices

By **MARK J. PERRY**

American Enterprise Institute

Mark J. Perry is a professor of finance and business economics in the School of Management at University of Michigan-Flint and a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.



CON FLINT, Mich.—Every time the price of gasoline shoots up, the U.S. finds itself in the same plight, yet we never learn from it.

Before we make the mistake of blaming oil companies for high prices, we should consider who the real culprits are.

If ever there was a time for an honest look at oil and gasoline prices, it's now. And what that inquiry concludes is that the American oil industry is not the instigator of higher prices.

The spike in gasoline prices is the latest reminder of the cost to America of not having a comprehensive energy policy. By relying so heavily on imported oil, we are held hostage to events halfway around the world.

Part of what lies behind soaring prices is turmoil in North Africa and the Middle East which has been spreading. After demonstrators took to the streets in Egypt, protests broke out in Tunisia, Kuwait, Yemen and Libya. Oil-rich Libya sends only a small fraction of its oil to the United States, but because oil is a world commodity, Americans are not immune to the shock waves.

Are other oil-producing countries like Bahrain and Oman next? Is even Saudi Arabia at risk? Saudi Arabia alone sits on a quarter of the world's oil reserves.

This uncertainty about tomorrow is reflected in oil prices today. Call it the fear factor. Investors are worried about the situation be-

cause no one knows where the turmoil will end. The risk is geopolitical instability in the Persian Gulf that has widespread effects.

Another problem: oil supplies are getting harder to replace once they've been consumed—and the demand for oil keeps growing, particularly in China, India and Brazil. In 2009, the last year for which figures are available, the world consumed 11 percent more oil than a decade earlier.

Oil imports now cost Americans \$1 million a minute. Crude oil prices, which are set on the world market based on market forces, fluctuate substantially and unpredictably.

It's time for the administration to realize the urgency and to set the country on a clear strategy of boosting oil production at home. President Obama's recently announced steps to lease some new areas, while worthwhile, fall short of what needs to be done. Congress should lift the moratorium on oil development in the Atlantic, Pacific and eastern Gulf of Mexico now.

This would make it more difficult for foreign countries to cut production to force up prices. The potentially unreliable countries of North Africa and the Persian Gulf, Venezuela and Nigeria supply a combined total of 5 million barrels a day—about a quarter of U.S. consumption. That is the amount we ought to replace with an increase in our own domestic production.

Fortunately, geologists say there is still plenty of oil in the ground and beneath the sea in the United States. According to the federal government, an estimated 67 percent of undiscovered oil resources are located on federal lands, a good part of which are off-limits to exploration and drilling.

But Obama and many Democrats in Congress have other plans, which directly contradict all their talk about achieving energy independence. The administration's moratorium on exploratory drilling in new offshore areas has locked away billions of barrels of oil. Oil production in Alaska, which has been in decline for decades, could be doubled by opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Arctic waters that are currently closed to drilling.

Combine these restrictions on drilling with instability in the Middle East and it's no wonder consumers are gritting their teeth at the price of gasoline. But we shouldn't blame oil companies for soaring prices, when they have nothing to do with the restrictions on domestic energy sources or the geopolitical events elsewhere that are the real culprits for higher gas prices.

Is President Obama right in blaming the oil companies for soaring gas prices?

"gradual" increase in gas prices.

Obama and Chu know that only when matched dollar-for-dollar will Americans choose alternative energy sources that are

much more expensive today. Since the already heavily-subsidized alternative energy sources are not getting cheaper, the only solution is to make cheap energy more expensive.

Akerson, Chu and Obama are wrong to embrace high gas prices. Hitting lower-income Americans with a punitive gas tax while unemployment remains near 10 percent is a bad idea, regardless of what behavior you are hoping to mandate.

Akerson's comments came in the context of a larger conversation on energy policy. Akerson correctly stated that the government's imposed fuel standards are taxing production, which will cost jobs and raise the purchase price of cars. But passing that burden directly to consumers at the gas pump isn't the solution. The idea that the government must either increase taxes on businesses or struggling taxpayers is a false choice.

High gas prices alone won't encourage consumers to buy the Chevy Volt. The Volt's problem is that even after substantial tax credits that the government cannot afford, the additional cost in buying a Volt, plus the cost of electricity (which isn't free) is far greater than any potential gas savings.

In fact, Chevy, along with Ford and Hyundai, are selling more small cars with the less government aid. According to the Washington Post, it is non-hybrid, but super-fuel-efficient small cars that customers are snatching up at a much lower cost.

General Motors and Chrysler have been bailed out enough. They do not need the government to continue manipulating taxpayers into paying more to drive to their next job interview.

And they don't need government imposed auto mandates or more "Cash for Clunkers" programs. If GM builds a fuel-efficient vehicle that is affordable and appealing, they won't need Washington to trick consumers into buying one, or to help pick up the check.

Akerson was correct to hope that GM can disconnect itself from taxpayers' wallets in the next year. He described it as: "It's kind of like your in-laws: It was a nice long weekend. We didn't say a week."

We couldn't have said it better ourselves.

General Motors CEO wants higher gas prices

By **RORY COOPER**

The Heritage Foundation

Rory Cooper is director of strategic communications at The Heritage Foundation.



If General Motors CEO Dan Akerson had anything to say about it, you would be paying a dollar more a gallon for gas.

Yes, with \$4-a-gallon prices hitting consumers in a tough economy, Akerson told the Detroit News: "You know what I'd rather have them do—this will make my Republican friends puke—as gas is going to go down here now, we ought to just slap a 50-cent or a dollar tax on a gallon of gas."

Akerson, 61, was appointed CEO of GM last fall, having previously served as an Obama-appointed member of the board. He has been critical of the Obama administration on several issues, including fuel economy standards.






But now he has discovered something in common: a love of high gas prices. He, like President Obama and Energy Secretary Steven Chu, believes that higher gas prices will force taxpayers to buy more fuel-efficient (and usually more expensive) vehicles.

In 2008, Secretary Chu said: "Somehow we have to figure out how to boost the price of gasoline to the levels in Europe." And it was President Obama who told CNBC in 2008 that he preferred a

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼82
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲85 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲83 ▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77

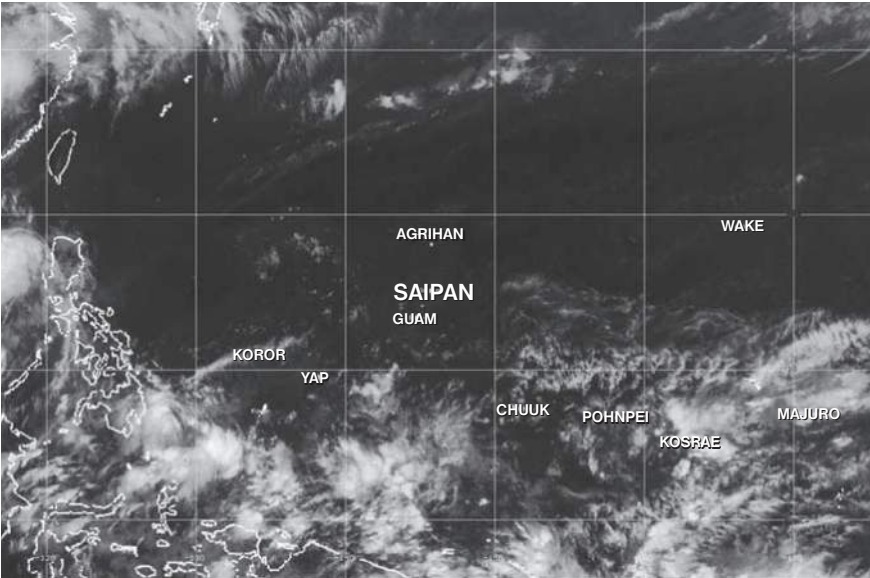
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼56
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲91 ▼65
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼74
London	Showers	▲64 ▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼78
Melbourne	Sunny	▲59 ▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼78
New York	Showers	▲70 ▼66
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲75 ▼69
Paris	Cloudy	▲70 ▼48
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲74 ▼65
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼62
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼53
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼55
Seoul	Showers	▲80 ▼63
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲75 ▼67
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼73

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:47 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
9:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
4:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends east-southeastward from northwest of 7N130E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Koror at 4N133E to end at EQ150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are south of Koror and Yap around the trough between the equator and 6N from 130E to 146E. A surface trough runs from EQ163E to 8N165E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found east of Pohnpei and over Kosrae between the equator and 8N from 160E to 169E in trade-wind convergence east of the trough around Majuro between 6N and 13N from 169E to 176E and south of Majuro between 2N and 5N from 172E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:12 PM	1:21 AM
Sunday	3:12 PM	2:08 AM
Monday	4:13 PM	2:58 AM
Tuesday	5:16 PM	3:52 AM
Wednesday	6:17 PM	4:50 AM

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
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 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Nation

Half the country wilts under unrelenting heat

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—A third day of unseasonable heat blistered the eastern half of the country Thursday, making tornado cleanup miserable in Massachusetts and sending country music fans in Tennessee to hospitals, while the surge in demand for energy knocked out power to sections of downtown Detroit.

Relief was on the way in the Northeast, however, as an approaching cold front triggered evening thunderstorms. Tens of thousands lost power in parts of New England as the storms passed through.

The persistent heat and resulting storms has been blamed for at least eight deaths from the Plains to the East Coast, where authorities prepared emergency rooms and encouraged neighbors to check on the elderly as temperatures soared above 100 in spots.

Detroit officials intentionally cut power to city hall and a convention center Thursday to prevent the municipal power system from crashing from high energy demand—even though temperatures had tapered to the 70s after two days above 90. Equipment failures knocked out power to several other government buildings and traffic lights in parts of the downtown.

“Because there was a short window of time, we had to make a decision to take some of our customers off to prevent a blackout of the entire city,” Detroit mayoral spokeswoman Karen Dumas said.

Some Northeastern schools canceled classes or closed early for a second day Thursday so students would not have to suffer with no air conditioning. Cooling centers opened in Chicago, Memphis, Tenn., Newark, N.J., and other cities as a refuge for those without air conditioning.

In New Jersey, records of 102 degrees were recorded at the Newark and Atlantic City airports, beating their respective previous records of 99 degrees and 98 degrees set in 2008. The tem-

perature also reached 102 degrees at Ronald Reagan National Airport near Washington, matching a record set in 1874. Philadelphia hit 99 degrees, one degree higher than a record set in 1933.

“I’d love to be indoors, but I don’t make any money that way,” said Jose Serrano, a landscape worker cutting lawns and trimming bushes in Toms River, N.J. “When it comes to working in these conditions, you just do what you have to do, you know?”

In Springfield, chain saws whirled amid high heat and humidity as workers cleared tree branches and other messes left by tornadoes that struck the area last week, killed three people and left hundreds living in shelters. The temperature hit 92 on Thursday.

As survivors sought clothing vouchers, diapers and other supplies, volunteers pressed cold water on them because many still lack electricity and

thus refrigeration. Fire trucks passed out cases of water in addition to tarps for patching roofs.

Light clouds provided scant relief for the volunteers frequently seeking shade in Red Cross tents.

“The heat is certainly making it a little more impossible,” said Linda-Jo Perks, co-commanding officer of the Springfield branch of the Salvation Army.

While the Northeast began seeing some relief late Thursday as a cold front swept through with cooler, drier air, the scorching heat was to linger for days in the South. Music fans in Tennessee had that to keep in mind as three major festivals commenced.

The four-day Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival began Thursday, with 80,000 general admission tickets sold for the event being held on a 700-acre farm about 60 miles southeast of Nash-

ville. In Chattanooga, 600,000 people are expected over nine days at the Riverbend Festival.

Alberta Kelly of New Brunswick in Canada attended her first County Music Association Festival Thursday in Nashville. After arriving, she promptly went shopping for sunglasses. The temperature was in the 90s.

“I wasn’t prepared for this at all,” she said. “It hit me pretty hard when I got off the plane. I also got sunburned.”

Vanderbilt University Medical Center spokesman Jerry Jones said Thursday that about 50 people at the CMA fest were treated Wednesday, about half for heat-related conditions. Ambulances took three to hospitals.

Alabama passes tough illegal-immigration law

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Alabama vaulted past Arizona on Thursday with what is being called the most restrictive law in the nation against illegal immigration, requiring schools to find out if students are in the country lawfully and making it a crime to knowingly give an illegal immigrant a ride. Advocacy groups promised to challenge the sweeping measure, which like Arizona’s law also allows police to arrest anyone suspected of being an illegal immigrant if the person is stopped for some other reason. In addition, it requires all businesses to check the legal status of workers using a federal system called E-Verify.

“It is clearly unconstitutional. It’s mean-spirited, racist, and we think a court will enjoin it,” said Mary Bauer, legal director for the Southern Poverty Law Center.

It takes effect Sept. 1. Republican Gov. Robert Bentley, who signed it into law Thursday, expressed confidence it would withstand any legal challenges.

“We have a real problem with illegal immigration in this country,” he said. “I campaigned for the toughest immigration laws, and I’m proud of the Legislature for working tirelessly to create the strongest immigration bill in the country.”

Alabama has an estimated 120,000 illegal immigrants, a nearly fivefold increase from a decade ago, according to the Pew Hispanic Center. Many of them are believed to be working on farms, at chicken processing plants and in construction.

One of the legislation’s sponsors, GOP Sen. Scott Beason, said it would help the unemployed by preventing illegal immigrants from getting jobs in the state. Alabama’s unemployment rate stood at 9.3 percent in April, the most recent figure available.

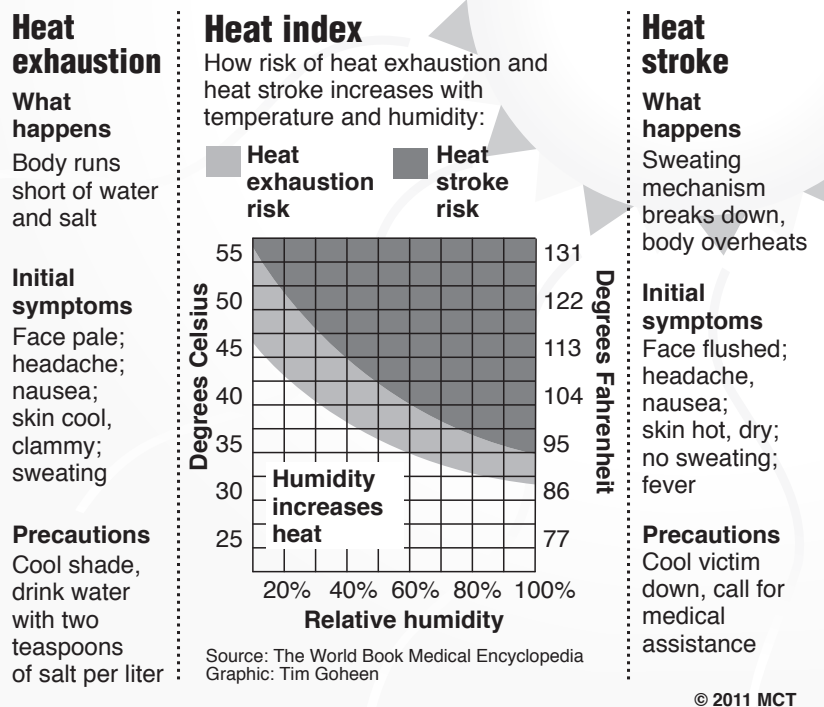
“This will put thousands of Alabamians back in the work force,” Beason said.

The Alabama Business Council has not taken a public stand on the law. In neighboring Georgia, some farmers and business owners warned that a crackdown passed recently in that state would make it more difficult to hire the laborers they rely on—many of whom are illegal immigrants.

The Alabama measure instantly puts the state at the forefront of the immigration debate. Organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Southern Poverty Law Center agreed that it is the nation’s toughest crackdown on illegal immigration.

Summer heat

Here’s what exposure to excessive summer heat may cause, if you do not take precautions.



Audit: Mars mission faces hurdles before launch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NASA’s next-generation rover to the surface of Mars, which is already overbudget and behind schedule, faces significant hurdles as it races to the launch pad for a November liftoff, an internal audit released Wednesday found.

The space agency insisted the remaining work to be done will not result in yet another launch slip.

“At this point in time, we are fully on schedule,” said Dave Lavery, the project’s program executive at NASA headquarters.

The mobile Mars Science Laboratory is intended to be the most sophisticated rover sent to the Martian surface. From the outset, the mission managed by NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory has been plagued by development woes that have put it behind schedule and driven up costs. The total cost of the mission has ballooned to \$2.5 billion from \$1.6 billion.

NASA’s inspector general faulted project managers for routinely underestimating costs and calculated that an extra \$44 million to the development

budget may be needed to avoid another delay or cancellation.

The latest price tag “may be insufficient to ensure timely completion of the project in light of the historical pattern of cost increases and the amount of work that remains to be completed,” the report said.

The size of a Mini Cooper and nicknamed Curiosity, the rover is a souped-up version of the golf cart-size twin rovers Spirit and Opportunity. Essentially a science laboratory on wheels, Curiosity carries a suite of tools to analyze Martian rocks and soil to determine whether environmental conditions were ever favorable to support primitive life.

Curiosity was supposed to fly in 2009, but problems during construction forced NASA to push back launch by two years to 2011 when the orbits of Mars and Earth are again closely aligned. It will reach the Martian surface in August 2012.

Engineers had to redesign the heat shield after it failed safety tests. There were delays in shipping instruments to

NASA. It took longer than expected to build and test the gear boxes that enable the mega-rover to drive and flick its robotic wrist.

Auditors found 1,200 reports of problems and failures that have not been resolved as of February. Since then, only about 1,000 issues remained. Though the number was a bit on the high side, it was not out of the character for such a complicated mission, Lavery said.

While engineers have fixed most of the problems that delayed the launch, some key issues lingered, including potential contamination of rock and soil samples by the spacecraft’s robotic arm. NASA has since found a solution to minimize contamination, but auditors said they remained concerned that the fix would not be completed in time for Curiosity’s departure later this month from California to Florida to be prepped for launch.

Another launch delay would increase costs by at least another \$570 million, the report said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Alaska poised to release Sarah Palin’s emails

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—The state of Alaska on Friday will release thousands of Sarah Palin’s emails from her first two years as governor, a disclosure that has taken on national prominence as she flirts with a run for the presidency. The emails were first requested during the 2008 White House race by citizens and news organizations, including The Associated Press, as they vetted a vice presidential nominee whose political experience included less than one term as governor of Alaska and a term as mayor of the small town of Wasilla. The nearly three-year delay has been attributed largely to the sheer volume of the release and the flood of requests.

Scientists: ‘Super’ wheat to boost food security

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Scientists say they’re close to producing new varieties of wheat that resist a virulent fungus while boosting yields up to 15 percent, potentially easing a deadly threat to the world’s food supply. The

research is part of a global drive to protect wheat from the Ug99 strain of stem rust. It will be presented next week at a conference in St. Paul that’s part of the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative, based at Cornell University. Scientists say Ug99 variants are spreading beyond the East African countries where they were first identified in 1999.

Wash. residents warned of ‘bloodthirsty’ dog pack

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—A “bloodthirsty” pack of dogs has killed about 100 animals in the past few months while eluding law enforcement and volunteers in northeastern Washington state, residents and authorities said. The killings started in late March and have occurred in a wide area of mountains and valleys west of Deer Park, a small town about 40 miles north of Spokane. “Trying to figure out where they are going to hit is next to impossible,” Stevens County Undersheriff Lavonne Webb said Thursday. “Nobody is claiming ownership of any animals involved in the pack.”

Asia

China warns neighbors: Stop oil search in Spratlys

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—China warned Asian neighbors Thursday to stop searching for oil near the Spratly Islands and vowed to assert its sovereignty over the potentially petroleum-rich territory in the South China Sea that several nations claim.

China and the Philippines have swapped diplomatic protests over the islands, with Filipino officials accusing Chinese forces of intruding into Manila-claimed areas six times since February and of firing shots at least once. Beijing denied the allegation Thursday and said it would use violence only when attacked.

Vietnam, meanwhile, has accused China of flaring tensions in Vietnamese waters by hindering the operation of a oil and gas exploration boat for the second time in two weeks.

The Spratlys, which are believed to be atop vast oil and gas reserves, have long been feared as a potential flash point of armed conflict in Asia.

The chain of barren, largely

uninhabited islands, reefs and banks are claimed wholly by China, Taiwan and Vietnam and partly by the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei. Addressing Manila's complaints for the first time, Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao denied that his government committed any intrusion.

He said China has not started to drill for oil there and warned others to stop any oil exploration in the area without Beijing's permission. China claims the entire South China Sea.

"We're calling on other parties to stop searching for the possibility of exploiting resources in these areas where China has its claims," he told reporters.

He said China is open to engaging other countries in joint oil and gas exploration.

Asked what would happen if countries defy China, Liu said that Beijing would assert its right over the disputed region diplomatically. "We will never use force unless we are attacked," he said.

In Vietnam, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Nguyen Phuong

Nga said in a press briefing Thursday that a Chinese fishing boat supported by two patrol vessels that morning damaged the exploration cable of the seismic survey boat operated by state-owned PetroVietnam.

She said the actions of the Chinese boats were "completely premeditated" and "seriously violating Vietnam's sovereign rights."

The incident came just two weeks after Chinese patrol boats cut another cable on a survey boat off its central coast. Hanoi says both incidents occurred well within the 200 nautical miles guaranteed to Vietnam as an exclusive economic zone by international law.

Nga said Vietnam's Foreign Ministry officials met Thursday with Chinese Embassy officials to lodge protests. Last weekend, in rare protests spurred by Facebook and text messages, thousands of Vietnamese took to the streets in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, demanding that China stay out of Vietnamese waters.

Pakistan army chief says US aid should be diverted

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's army chief said Thursday that billions of dollars in U.S. aid to fund the military's fight against Islamist militants should be diverted to help ordinary Pakistanis, a possible attempt to boost the military's popularity following the American raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani's comments, made in a meeting with his top commanders, were also a jab at the U.S., which has pushed Pakistan to step up its fight against Taliban militants who stage cross-border attacks against foreign troops in Afghanistan.

The U.S. Navy SEAL raid that killed bin Laden on May 2

enraged Kayani and other military officials, since they were not told about it beforehand. It also sparked widespread domestic criticism of the military for failing to stop the operation and for not knowing that bin Laden was hiding in Abbottabad, an army town roughly 35 miles (55 kilometers) outside Islamabad.

The raid has also sparked retaliatory attacks by militants inside Pakistan, intensifying the country's already rampant violence.

Pakistani officials said Thursday that Taliban fighters stormed a checkpoint, killing eight Pakistani soldiers in an Afghan border region that the army previously said it had cleared of

insurgents. Two bomb attacks elsewhere in the northwest on Thursday killed six civilians.

The relationship between Pakistan and the U.S. was strained even before the bin Laden raid, and the operation pushed it to a new low.

Kayani reiterated to his commanders that the army has ceased its training relationship with the U.S. in the wake of the operation and has restricted the scope of intelligence sharing. "It has been decided to share intelligence strictly on the basis of reciprocity and complete transparency," he said in an unusually long and detailed statement issued by the army after Thursday's meeting.

bus driver are still missing following Friday's accident in Ali Beg, a town about 185 miles (300 kilometers) south of Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-held Kashmir. Naem said three children were saved after the accident.

Fasting guru denies he's arming followers in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A charismatic yoga guru has pledged to train his followers in self defense and traditional martial arts but said they would never take up arms in fighting India's endemic corruption. Baba Ramdev, a television celebrity watched by millions of viewers, was on the sixth day of a hunger strike Thursday to demand the return of billions of dollars stashed abroad illegally in tax havens by companies and wealthy Indians. A police raid forced Ramdev and thousands of his followers from a New Delhi park Sunday, injuring dozens and sparking enormous public outrage.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Dalai Lama: China not enemy, some hard-liners are

SYDNEY (AP)—The Dalai Lama, who has pushed without success for more autonomy for his native Tibet for decades, said Thursday that China is not his enemy but that some hard-line Communists are. China says Tibet has always been part of its territory, but many Tibetans say the Himalayan region was virtually independent for centuries until the 1950s when Communist troops marched in. Beijing reviles the Dalai Lama and frequently denounces him, alleging that he wants independence for Tibet.

Bus accident in Pakistan kills at least 7 children

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A government official says a bus carrying school children has fallen into a canal in Pakistan-held Kashmir, killing at least seven children. Khawaja Naem says another seven children and the

World

Fleeing Syrians tell of revolt, mutiny and mayhem

GUVECCI, Turkey (AP)—Syrian policemen turned their guns on each other, soldiers shed their uniforms rather than obey orders to fire on protesters, and three young men who tried to escape were beheaded by forces loyal to President Bashar Assad.

As more than 2,400 Syrians streamed across the open Turkish borders on Thursday ahead of tanks and troops who surrounded their hometown, they brought with them the first accounts of a week of revolt, mutiny and mayhem in Jisr al-Shughour. The streets were deserted, leaving no resistance against a regime equipped for all-out battle. Even safe in Turkish camps 12 miles (20 kilometers) away, the Syrians said they feared the authoritarian government's reach and refused to allow their full names to be used.

A young man who identified himself as Rami said the Syrian reinforcements were mobilized in response to a mutiny among police and soldiers, sharply divided over how to disperse the protesters.

"It all started with the killing of two protesters a week ago, then policemen who refused orders from the Alawite police chief to fire on civilians clashed at the Emin Asqari police station," Rami said through an interpreter. Other Syrians nodded or interrupted with more details. Syria's ruling elite, including the Assads, belong to the minority Alawite sect.

"Then, some soldiers deserted also after refusing to fire on the protesters, some took off their uniforms, left their weapons and ran away with

their families," added Rami, a skinny 22-year-old who was studying at a university in Jisr al-Shughour to become a math teacher. "Two helicopters also fired randomly on civilians as well as houses that triggered the exodus

Rami said he can't reach many of his friends. "I fear for their lives," said Rami. "Assad's forces beheaded three young men from Latakia when they said they were going to Turkey. We buried them yesterday in a village across the border."

The struggle over Jisr al-Shughour and the surrounding Idlib province is a critical test for the 40-year Assad regime, which has said "armed groups" killed 120 security forces in the area this week.

Syrian activists say more than 1,300 people have died in the crackdown on the 11-week uprising, most of them unarmed civilians; a govern-

ment spokeswoman countered that 500 security forces had died in the uprising, including 120 who died in the Jisr al-Shughour area this week.

"The only instance where security forces have fired is when they have been fired at," Reem Haddad told Britain's Sky News. "How have these people been killed for goodness sake if no one is firing at them?"

Jisr al-Shughour emptied as its residents crossed olive groves and traveled gravel roads, trying to get away from the tanks and elite forces believed to be led by Assad's younger brother, Maher, residents and an activist said. Turkey's foreign minister said 2,400 Syrians had crossed the border.



Yemen's militants emboldened by nation's turmoil

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's political upheaval has emboldened suspected al-Qaida militants who have seized a provincial capital and now are operating openly in the lawless south, training with live ammunition and controlling roads with checkpoints.

The U.S. fears the power vacuum will give even freer rein to al-Qaida's branch in Yemen—already the terror network's most active franchise.

Yemen's government said Thursday that troops killed 12 suspected al-Qaida militants as part of a campaign to retake the southern city of Zinjibar.

Hundreds of militants seized the capital of troubled Abyan province on May 27, taking advantage of a breakdown of authority resulting from the government's battle with armed tribesmen seeking to topple

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the country's autocratic leader of more than three decades.

Yemen's crisis has deepened further since Saleh was critically wounded in a June 3 rocket attack on his compound and flown to neighboring Saudi Arabia for urgent medical treatment. U.S. officials say the 69-year-old Saleh suffered burns over 40 percent of his body and has bleeding inside his skull.

The developments have fueled fears of growing instability in a nation that has been a launching pad for repeated attacks against the United States.

The Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula has been linked to several attempted attacks on U.S. targets, including the foiled Christmas Day 2009 bombing of an airliner over Detroit and explosives-laden par-

cels intercepted aboard cargo flights last year.

Yemen is also home to radical U.S.-born Muslim cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, whom Washington has put on a kill-or-capture list and accused of inspiring attacks on the U.S., including the 2009 shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, that killed 13 people.

In Abu Dhabi, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called Thursday on all sides to honor a cease-fire. She said Washington was pushing for an "immediate, orderly and peaceful transition" in Yemen.

The 12 suspected al-Qaida militants were killed in gunbattles as government troops pressed toward Zinjibar, the Defense Ministry said. It said three soldiers were wounded. The deaths followed the killings of 30 suspected militants earlier this week.

New round of NATO strikes hits Tripoli outskirts

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—NATO airstrikes rattled the Libyan capital Thursday with clusters of bombing runs believed to have targeted the outskirts of Tripoli.

At first, the intensity of the attacks suggested a return to the heavy NATO bombardment that hit military installations across the capital on Tuesday and flattened major buildings in leader Moammar Gadhafi's sprawling compound in the center of the city.

By nightfall Thursday, a total of 14 air attacks had been carried out, considerably fewer

than Tuesday. There were eight explosions in a first series of strikes on Thursday and hours later, the sound of six more airstrikes boomed in the distance.

The bombing continued early Friday as three fresh strikes sent plumes of smoke over Tripoli. Their direction suggested that either Gadhafi's compound or nearby military barracks were shelled. Government officials have not been commenting on NATO strikes.

After the strikes, pro-Gadhafi supporters fired assault rifles into the air and beeped their car

horns in defiance.

The strikes are in support of a four-month-old rebel uprising that seeks to push Gadhafi from power after four decades. Rebels have taken control of swaths of eastern Libya, although fighting has since become a stalemate even with NATO support.

Gadhafi shows no signs of ceding power under the building pressure of the NATO strikes, despite repeated attacks on his compound, government buildings, military radar emplacements and other army installations.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, June 11, 2011

Geneva opens up about her colorful life

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Dressed in a sexy maxi sundress and with light makeup, Filipino singer Geneva Cruz strides into the executive lounge of the Fiesta Resort & Spa with a smile that lit up the room. She admitted, however, to feeling kind of glum.

"Miami lost and I feel sad because I'm a big LeBron [James] fan," said Cruz, referring to the ongoing NBA finals.

Arriving with her sister Vanessa, Cruz is on island for the first time to perform with The Retrospect band in a concert organized by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Cruz, who began her show business career in 1989 as one of the lead singers of the now defunct popular music group Smokey Mountain, got comfortable with members of the local media Friday afternoon by talking about commonplace topics and her "very colorful" life.

"My mom said I was 2 when I started singing. Then I would sing along to Lea Salonga's songs in her *Small Voice* album. But I became a professional singer at the age of 12," she said.

Out of 400 youngsters that auditioned, Cruz said she was among the eight chosen to be trained by Ryan Cayabyab, the acclaimed musician who founded the music group. After a two-month training, they were trimmed down to four and became the Smokey Mountain.

"When I was with Smokey Mountain, singing never really felt like a job," as she had the chance to travel and record songs.

Life after Smokey Mountain

When the group disbanded, Cruz said she began doing commercials and advertisements, endors-



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Filipino singer Geneva Cruz will perform in concert tonight at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa.

ing products such as Swatch and Gift Gate as well as recorded her first solo album, *I Like You*.

She gave birth to her son, 15-year-old Heaven, to former Introyos drummer Paco Arespachaga. Cruz has been married to MTV VJ KC Montero but admits to being separated.

"The story of my life is very colorful," she added.

Still, Cruz remains thankful that she has received many blessings. "God has been good to me."

Two decades after Smokey Mountain, Cruz admits to having a hard time coping with the popularity she has back home. In parties or gatherings, she prefers to socialize with those behind the scenes such as the

kitchen or wait staff.

"Most of my friends are non-showbiz and musicians," said Cruz, adding that her only best friends in show business, aside from her cousins Donna, Sheryl, Sunshine, and Rayver Cruz, is Rachel Alejandro.

"That's why I really don't like it when they call me a diva. It makes me uncomfortable," she said.

According to Cruz, she is proud to be born and raised in Tondo, Manila. "I'm a Tondo girl at heart."

New album

Her pride in her roots inspired one of the singles in Cruz's new album, which will be

launched soon.

To Manila is about the many things she missed in the Philippines when she lived in Seattle for quite a time. "Missing the land where you were born and raised is like missing a person you love. It's like you will still love that person despite his or her bad qualities."

Cruz gave the media a treat by singing a few lines of the song.

Animal rights advocate

Cruz is also known as an animal rights advocate, which started when she was 15 and appeared in a Sunsilk commercial feeding a giraffe in Palawan.

"I really care about animals," she said.

Cruz signed up as a member of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. "I've been a supporter since 2008."

She even posed nude—covered with only animal body parts in print—for 100 photographers. "I was shocked because that photo came out in the front page of international newspapers."

Concert, Independence Day

Cruz, who likes Saipan for its lush greens and amazing beaches, is excited to perform in tonight's concert.

"I love performing. I will sing a lot of my hit songs and some songs from my new album," she said.

Cruz also looks forward to meeting the Filipino community on island on Sunday at the 2011 *Pistang Pinoy*.

"It really means a lot for me to be there because I'm proud to be a Filipino," she said.

Cruz invites the public to come and watch their concert at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Tickets are at \$10 and \$25 and available at Docomo Pacific and Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe and Garapan.

"The whole committee really worked hard to make this a fun celebration for all Filipinos on Saipan," he said.

Malasarte invited not just the Filipinos but other community members to take part in the festivities.

"Forget about your worries and stress by joining us this Sunday at the *Pistang Pinoy*. Let's all enjoy together," he said.

Malasarte especially urged all organization members under UFO to participate.

"We hope that all members will attend so we can show our unity as the umbrella organization of all Filipino groups here on island," he added.

PH issues advisory on illegal drug couriers

The Philippine Department of Justice has issued an advisory on illegal drug couriers or "drug mules" to warn Filipinos of the legal consequences of being involved, voluntarily or involuntarily, in the transportation of illegal drugs abroad.

The department issued the advisory to explain to the public the issues surrounding the recruitment, arrest, detention and conviction of Filipinos caught transporting illegal drugs abroad.

As with its previous advisory regarding the basic rights of citizens in military/police checkpoints, Advisory Opinion No. 2 is in line with the thrust of the department to take a proactive stance in criminal justice concerns, including the issue on Filipino illegal drug couriers or "drug mules."

The DOJ's advisory is addressed both to Filipinos who willingly accept offers to become illegal drug couriers and to those who were involuntarily caught in the criminal activities of syndicates through various modus operandi. In either case, the advisory lays down basic rules that all Filipinos should bear in mind once they are apprehended abroad on suspicion of transporting illegal drugs.

Below are the 10 advisory points issued by the DOJ, couched in simple and

straightforward language for easy comprehension by the general public:

1. "Carry at your own risk."
 2. Knowledge is immaterial and intent is not a requirement in drug trafficking.
 3. Be vigilant of the modus operandi of drug courier syndicates.
 4. In the unfortunate event of arrest or detention for drug trafficking, have presence of mind and do not resist arrest.
 5. Assert your legal rights, inquire on the legal remedies, and request for consular assistance.
 6. Presumption of innocence will always apply.
 7. The laws of the country of arrest apply.
 8. If sentenced, the government can only be of limited assistance.
 9. "Blood money" cannot be paid to erase the liability of a person convicted of a crime involving illegal drugs.
 10. Take full responsibility of your actions.
- The DOJ's advisory was issued at a time when more and more Filipinos are being arrested and convicted in various countries allegedly for being drug couriers. It seeks to warn Filipinos of the legal consequences of being involved, voluntarily or involuntarily, in the criminal activities of illegal drug syndicates. (DOJ)

Visa, UnionBank tie up for money transfer business

Global credit card company Visa Inc. has entered the local remittance market with the launch of a new service that allows Filipinos in the Middle East to send money directly to their loved ones' credit cards in the country.

In a briefing earlier this week, the company announced its new partnership with UnionBank of the Philippines for a new service that lets users receive cash from abroad to their Visa debit cards—the first of its kind in Asia.

The service, which uses Visa's Personal Payment technology, was developed in partnership with United Arab Emirates Exchange, a leading provider of remittance services in the Middle East.

Dubbed as Visa Personal Pay-

ments, the new service would allow Filipinos with local Visa debit cards, issued by UnionBank, to receive funds in near real time, putting money from thousands of miles away in recipients' hands in a matter of minutes. The cash is sent by overseas Filipino workers through UAE Exchange branches abroad.

The cash can then be withdrawn at the nearest automated teller machines (ATM) or used to pay for services such as bill settlements or even grocery purchases.

About eight million Filipinos currently work abroad, remitting a total of \$18.8 billion to their families in the Philippines every year based on 2010 figures from the central bank. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

2011 Pistang Pinoy on Sunday

» As the Philippines celebrates 113th Independence Day

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

All is set for the 2011 *Pistang Pinoy* (Filipino Fiesta) organized by the United Filipino organization on June 12, from 10am to 6pm at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Major sponsors for the event are IT&E, Marpac, Western Union, Coca-Cola, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

"The community can expect a whole day of fun and entertainment as we celebrate our Philip-

pine Independence Day," UFO president Bong Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

The annual celebration is scheduled right after the flag raising ceremony and program arranged by the Philippine Consulate General at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza.

"We will participate in the Consulate-sponsored event, then followed by the *Pistang Pinoy*," he said.

Malasarte said a number of performers have been lined

up to showcase their talents throughout the celebration. Some 20 vendors will also set up their booths at the event.

According to Malasarte, they also plan to host a *tong-its* tournament for card game enthusiasts.

"There will be a minimal entrance fee and a prize for the winner," he said.

Although it was hard for them to solicit sponsorships from private companies, Malasarte said the organizing committee managed to pull it off.

China to neighbors: Keep out of the Spratlys

»Stop search for oil, sans permission, says envoy

By **JULIE M. AURELIO**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vowing to assert sovereignty in the disputed Spratly Islands, China on Thursday warned its neighbors to stop searching for oil in the contested region without its permission.

The warning came amid a report from Hanoi that China, for the second time in two weeks, on Thursday harassed a Vietnamese vessel conducting seismic surveys within Vietnam's continental shelf.

Vietnam's prime minister said Hanoi was determined to protect its "incontestable" sovereignty over areas it claims in the South China Sea in an intensifying war of words with Beijing.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, smarting at Beijing's stepped-up criticism of the Philippines, scoffed at China's demands.

"For heaven's sake, don't lecture us. We can equally lecture you even if you are a giant," Enrile told reporters.

A day after Beijing warned Manila to refrain from unilateral actions that could damage Chinese sovereignty, Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao issued another warning.

Totally China's territory

"We're calling on all parties to stop searching the possibility of exploiting resources in the area where China has claims. At the same time, if the countries want to do so, you can talk to China about the possibility of having a joint cooperation development and exploitation of natural resources," Liu said.

Asked about reports of oil exploration in the disputed region, Liu said: "China hasn't started drilling oil wells in this region. Personally, I don't know anything about what was reported. China has a large maritime area, for example in East China Sea."

Recently, Manila lodged a protest in the United Nations over the harassment by a Chinese vessel of a Department of Energy vessel.

"It's not harassment. It's a normal practice and exercise of jurisdiction, and the rumor was the Chinese vessels made an ammunition assault, which is not true," Liu said.

He added that the Reed Bank—which the Philippines calls Kalayaan—was "totally within China's territorial claims."

'Bad rumor'

The ambassador urged all parties to set aside differences and engage in joint cooperation.

"Peaceful means is the only option for China and we're determined to carry on with peaceful consultations with our partners, our neighbors who are also claiming the Nansha (Spratly) Islands. So I hope that all coun-

Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Liu Jianchao gestures during a news conference at the Ambassador's residence at the country's financial district of Makati city, east of Manila, Philippines Thursday, June 9, 2011.

AP



tries will face it with reality and consider overall peace and stability in the region," Liu said.

The ambassador said it was unfortunate that the current dispute with the Philippines began with a "bad rumor," referring to reports of Chinese jet fighters allegedly intruding into Philippine airspace near the Spratlys.

Liu denied the reports and added that these had been clarified with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

But Eduardo Batac, spokesman of the Department of National Defense, said the Philippine military was standing by previous government state-

ments on Chinese "intrusions."

"We are bringing our case to the international community and we will let the international community be the judge with regard to the actions taken by the Chinese," Batac said.

He declined to comment on strongly worded statements from Beijing.

Manila has accused Beijing of intrusions into its territory, citing six instances, including one in March when two Chinese patrol boats tried to ram a Philippine survey ship.

China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan all claim territories in

the South China Sea, which covers an important shipping route and is thought to hold untapped oil and gas reserves.

'Paper boat'

Enrile said China was treating the Philippines like a "doormat" in the dispute over the Spratlys.

He said this was "normally the attitude of a powerful country against a weak country."

Enrile said the best defense against such "bullying" was for the Philippines to build up its economic and military power, but he doubted that the country was in a position to do this now.

"If you have a bully as a

neighbor, and you don't want to prepare against that bully, you will be a doormat of your neighbor," he said.

"We do not want to develop the wherewithal to tell the guy who is going to bully us, 'You try to come near me and I'll show you how to bite you like a flea. We can't even act as a flea because we have no sting,'" he added.

The country's "paper boat" is no match against China's military might and the Philippines could not rely on the United Nations and even the United States to defend it from China, Enrile said.

"We can only pray, 'God please help us.' What are we going to fight China with? They would only send two destroyers, and we'd surrender," he said. "You can raise your voice, but if they attack us, we run away."

Beijing-Hanoi rift

In Thursday's incident, a Chinese fishing boat deployed a "cable cutting device" and got it trapped in a network of underwater cables in use by a ship hired by Vietnam, the foreign ministry spokesperson, Nguyen Phuong Nga, said in Hanoi.

The report coincided with published comments by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, communist Vietnam's most powerful figure, deploring a similar incident in May and underscoring the seriousness with which the government views it.

"We continue to affirm strongly and to manifest the strongest determination of all the Party, of all the people and of all the army in protecting Vietnamese sovereignty in maritime zones and islands of the country," Dung said in comments reported by the Thanh Nien daily on Thursday.

He also reaffirmed "the incon-

testable maritime sovereignty of Vietnam toward the two archipelagos, the Paracels and Spratlys."

Hundreds of people held a peaceful anti-China protest outside the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi on Sunday, the largest action of its kind since 2007. Protests are rare in authoritarian Vietnam.

Joint exploitations

In his news conference, Liu was asked about China's plans to hold peaceful consultations despite exercising its jurisdiction over the islets.

The Chinese diplomat pointed to a previous cooperation between China, the Philippines and Vietnam on a seismic survey.

"That's why we propose to the Philippine government to have joint exploitation in the areas with regard to development survey and exploitation of oil and gas resources, that's the perfect formula. That's why we call for a positive response from the Philippine side," he explained.

"Let me reaffirm that China is firm (in) its claim to the territorial sovereignty over the area and at the same time is also firm in committing itself to a peaceful settlement of the issue," he said.

The Chinese government believes the best way is to have joint cooperation and that China "cannot accept that one country taking unilateral actions for personal and private gains at the sacrifice of the interest of other parties," Liu said.

He pointed out that through such a setup, all parties would benefit.

"That's why we recognize the differences, the difficulties at this stage of finding a proper settlement over the territorial dispute, so the best formula is cooperation," Liu said. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, DJ Yap, AFP and Reuters*

China says Vietnam endangered fishermen's lives

By **LOUISE WATT**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING (AP)—China demanded that Vietnam stop "all invasive activities" after accusing it of illegally entering its waters and endangering Chinese fishermen's lives in an escalating dispute over territory in the South China Sea.

The verbal clash with Vietnam follows a slap down of the Philippines in another area of the South China Sea, where China and a handful of countries are eyeing rich oil and gas reserves.

The disputes have marred China's relations with its neighbors and pulled in the United States, which considers some of China's sea claims as international waters.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry issued its warning to Vietnam late Thursday, hours after Vietnam said a Chinese fishing boat supported by two patrol vessels had damaged the exploration cable of a state-operated seismic survey boat off the central Vietnamese coast.

Vietnam said it was the second

time China had hindered the operation of an oil and gas exploration boat in two weeks, adding that its actions were "completely premeditated" and accusing it of flaring regional tensions in the South China Sea.

Hanoi says both incidents occurred well within the 200 nautical miles guaranteed to Vietnam as an exclusive economic zone by international law.

In the statement, ministry spokesman Hong Lei said the Chinese fishing boat crew had instead been in waters around the Spratly Islands, which are claimed by China and Vietnam and some other Asian nations. He said the crew had merely been protecting itself after being dragged backward for over an hour by a Vietnamese oil and gas exploration vessel—one, he said, that was "illegally working at the scene."

"The claims made by Vietnam are complete misrepresentations of the truth. As is known to all, China has indisputable sovereignty rights over the Spratly Islands and the waters nearby," Hong said.

"It needs to be pointed out that in illegally exploring for oil and gas and forcing out Chinese fishing boats from the Wan'an bank of the Spratly Islands, Vietnam has seriously violated China's sovereignty and maritime rights," he said.

"China demands that Vietnam stop all invasive activities," Hong said.

On Thursday, China denied an allegation by Filipino officials that Chinese forces had intruded into Philippines-claimed areas around the Spratly Islands six times since February and of firing shots at least once. Beijing said it would use violence only when attacked.

Although the tension is unlikely to escalate beyond a war of words, the conflict could draw in the United States, which worries that the disputes could hurt access to one of the world's busiest sea lanes. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said last year that the peaceful resolution of disputes over the Spratly and Paracel island chains was in the American national interest.

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Six dead as typhoon exits the Philippines

By KATHERINE EVANGELISTA,
LEILA SALAVERRIA
INQUIRER.NET, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Six people were killed and 27 others were missing at sea as Tropical Storm “Dodong” (international codename: Sarika) headed out of Philippine waters Friday with many communities still flooded, rescuers said.

Four people drowned in the major southern island of Mindanao earlier this week while a boy died after falling into a swollen creek in Batangas city near Manila, and a woman drowned on the central island of Tablas, they said.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said 26 Filipino fishermen were missing near the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

One crew member of a barge went missing as the 45-ton F/B 3MS WOF owned by a Leo Caranay, which was carrying agricultural products, was driven by strong winds off the town of Sariaya, south of Manila, it added.

The boat was supposed to have arrived in Bolinao at 6:30 p.m. of Tuesday but has not been seen since.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council executive director Benito Ramos said three Navy rescue boats and two Philippine Coast Guard helicopters were deployed in the area.

“If something happens to them, I will take the full responsibility,” said Ramos.

“It’s either the Coast Guard allowed them to sail or they did



A man pedals his bicycle on a flooded street as his daughter holds her umbrella to protect them from the rain after fetching her from school Wednesday, June 8, 2011 in suburban Navotas, northern Manila, Philippines.

not ask permission,” he added.

Meanwhile, Fred Castelo, Bolinao municipal administrator, said another boat sank some 16 kilometers off Santiago Island, also in Bolinao, on Thursday

but the five fishermen on board were rescued.

He said Bolinao officials also received reports that at least two other fishing boats from the town remained miss-

ing but they could not determine how many people were on board these vessels.

Several hundred people remained at evacuation centres across Luzon early Friday while waiting for floodwaters to recede, the NDRRMC said in its update.

Dodong was heading for southeastern China on Friday with peak winds of 65 kilometers (40 miles) an hour, after brushing the west coast of the main Philippine island of Luzon, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

Pagasa also lifted all storm warning signals in the country.

In its 11 a.m. weather bulletin, Pagasa said Dodong was seen 330 kilometers northwest of Laoag City.

Dodong has maintained its strength with 65 kilometer per hour winds near the center and gusts of up to 80 kph.

The tropical storm has picked up speed and was now moving at 25 kph still headed north northwestward, Pagasa said. Dodong is expected to enhance the southwest monsoon and will bring rains over the western section of Northern and Central Luzon, Pagasa said.

An average of 20 storms and typhoons, some of them deadly, hit the Philippines every year. Last month, tropical storm “Bebeng” (international codename: Aere) left 31 people dead before Typhoon “Chedeng” (international codename: Songda) killed another three. **With reports from Danica Hermogenes, INQUIRER.net; Yolanda Sotelo, Inquirer Northern Luzon; AFP**

ILO to agree on landmark treaty on domestic workers

GENEVA (AFP)—The Philippines will be among a number of states next week urging the International Labor Organization to pass a landmark treaty offering protection to domestic workers across the world.

ILO member-states are expected to adopt proposals designed to offer protection to an estimated 52.6 million worldwide.

It would ensure domestic workers enjoyed conditions “not less favorable” than other workers, requiring governments to ensure they understood their rights, preferably through written contracts.

The document also offers domestic workers a full rest day every week, and prevents employers requiring domestic workers to remain with an employer’s household during their annual leave or rest days.

The convention, which is expected to be adopted next week during the 100th annual conference of the ILO, will come into effect upon the ratification of two countries.

ILO chief Juan Somavia told negotiators meeting in Geneva this week that if it was

adopted, they would be “making ILO history.”

Lourdes Trasmonte, chief negotiator for the Philippines, underlined the importance of the convention to the country given the millions of Filipinos working abroad as domestic workers.

“It is a universal right for every worker to be given respect, protection, the right to privacy, the right to health and safety,” she told Agence France-Presse.

ILO data, which is a compilation of national statistics, indicate that there are at least 52.6 million domestic workers in 2010.

But there are reasons to believe that the true number, concealed by undercounting among some states, could lie close to 100 million, the agency added.

Despite the large numbers, domestic workers are still among the most exploited and abused.

Many are required to work irregular and long hours for low pay and are given insufficient rest. Live-in domestic workers in particular, can be on call at all times of the day.

They are also largely excluded from social protection such as maternity benefits and

social security.

Several delegates noted that it was high time for these workers to obtain protection and expressed confidence that the treaty would be adopted, given the broad support this year.

Trasmonte noted: “Countries that are not engaged last year, are engaged this year.” These include Gulf countries, activists said.

While there is no official breakdown for the number of domestic workers in the Gulf, the ILO estimates that there are 2.1 million domestic workers in the Middle East, making up around 5.6 percent of total employment in the region.

The United Arab Emirates, which is speaking for the Gulf countries, declined to comment before the end of negotiations.

Nevertheless, activists said that the Gulf countries have been active in the negotiations, indicating that they are taking a serious look at the treaty.

South Africa’s chief negotiator Virgil Seafeld, who was also speaking on behalf of the African group, noted that “the critical mass is there.”

“I don’t think there is a lot of

apprehension. I see a lot of support,” he said.

Nevertheless, joining the convention is only the first step. Countries would not have to implement the treaty until ratification. Others can also opt not to sign up, which could reduce the bite of the treaty.

But supporters of the convention and activists believe that the strength of treaty lies in that it sets a standard.

Peer pressure could also lend influence. “There’s an understanding that major sending countries... are in support. They will want the protection that will be provided when dealing with other countries,” Seafeld told AFP.

Human Rights Watch’s Nisha Varia also noted that over the past decade, there had been a “shift in awareness.”

“There’s starting to be an international consensus that domestic workers are workers, that they do deserve protection under labour law like other workers.

“Countries that don’t keep up with that are going to feel that pressure, that they are not keeping up with contemporary standards,” she said.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Anxiety eats up retired overseas worker

By HENRY ONG
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

QUESTION: I used to work as an OFW for many years and came home last year after my contract expired. I have had sleepless nights lately worrying how I can sustain my household expenses without a stable source of income. Although I have set aside some savings, I am afraid I may eventually use up all of it and not have sufficient cash at a time when I need it most. I am 45 years old and I am willing to work again. What should I do?—Doy

RFP: Your financial anxiety is very common to many people who don’t have a personal financial plan. Many people, even those who are very successful in their field, share the same problem about their struggle to achieve financial security because they don’t know how to prioritize their expenses. It is good that you were able to set aside some savings for the rainy days, but you should also know how to make it productive. It is not yet too late for you to start planning your finances and goals in life while you still have the resources and capability to do it.

To begin planning your finances, you should ask yourself the following questions:

1 Where am I now financially?

Analyze your cash flow. Look at your expenses and income. How much do you save every payday? Are you able to pay your credit card dues on time? Do you spend your money more on consumption or investment? The answers to these will help you assess your ability to do financial planning. It will also help if you can estimate your current net worth. You can do this by summing up your total assets, which can be your savings in the bank, house, car or any property, minus all your payables. Your networth will tell you where you stand financially and you can manage it from there on.

2 What is my financial goal?

Start by first identifying what you want. Do you have any idea what your living standard will look like when you retire? How much income do you need when you retire so you can afford to sustain your daily expenses and enjoy life? Do you plan to move to your dream house in a few years? Do you love to travel? These are some of the many questions that will guide you in determining how much savings you need to accumulate.

3 When will I achieve it?

When you have made up your list of goals, classify them as short-term or long-term. If you think you can carry out a goal within the year then that will be considered short-term. Any goal that is beyond one year should be considered long-term. Your short-term goals can be buying a new cell phone for yourself. It can also be achieving savings target of 20 percent of your monthly household expenses, or finding a new job that pays well. Your long-term goals can be investing in a retirement fund when your reach 60 years old or buying a vacation home.

4 What is my game plan?

Develop a plan to achieve your goal. For example, you want to cut down your monthly expenses by 20 percent, your action step would be to reduce the number of times you buy your café latte to once a week from daily. Put an action plan for every goal in your list and try to keep a record of how you implemented it so you can review it.

5 How do I implement my game plan?

Make a budget of your income and expenses and try to follow it consistently. A budget is similar to how you assess your cash flows earlier but, this time, it is not about how you spent but how you plan to spend. You may not be able to follow every peso in the budget but this will help you become conscious of your spending. You can make your budget flexible so you can adjust when you need to until you get it right.

6 How do you know if you were on the right track?

Monitor your progress regularly. You can review your plan once a year to see if you need to correct certain assumptions in your projection or you need to add new goals. You may also need to consult a Registered Financial Planner to help you at some point for specific counseling about your financial situation.

Henry Ong is a registered financial planner of RFP Philippines. He can be reached at hong@rfp-philippines.com.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Short and a 'minority' in H'wood: Charice opens up

By **RUBEN V. NEPALES**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LOS ANGELES—Charice was bright and chirpy on the phone, sometimes pausing and exclaiming “Whew!” when the questions demanded more than her usual sound bites.

But the Filipina singer with the multi-octave voice sounded like she relished being challenged, even though she seemed to choke when recalling some painful moments and disappointments in her young life.

In her remarkable journey, Charice has encountered quite a number of big names from various fields. But meeting Oprah for the first time is still tops on her list. “I was star-struck,” said Charice who was only 16 at the time. “Oprah is like my fairy godmother. I’m grateful that she’s still supporting me even to this day.”

Double whammy

After that first meeting and a guest appearance on “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” Charice and mom Raquel were about to fly back to Manila when Oprah, so taken with the

petite Pinay, got them off the flight and brought back to her Harpo offices.

Oprah then called Grammy-winning music producer David Foster and asked if he could take Charice in as his artist. Thus began Charice’s climb to the pop music big leagues, resulting in hit singles, a debut album, U.S. concerts with A-list performers and in other countries as a solo artist, and a stint on “Glee.”

“As Long As You’re There,” Charice’s song with “Glee’s” Vocal Adrenaline which got a standing ovation in the recent season finale, is one of the attractions of the recently released album, “Glee: The Music, Volume 6.”

In addition, she was cast in the film, “Here Comes the Boom,” which stars Salma Hayek, Kevin James, Henry Winkler and Fil-Am Reggie Lee.

Asked what it’s like to be short and a minority—a double whammy if you’re trying to break the glass ceiling in the mainstream U.S. entertainment scene—Charice broke into a hearty laugh and said: “When I was in Boston shooting [‘Here Comes...’], one of the crew



Charice performs with the choral group Vocal Adrenaline in a scene from “Glee.”

members called me one day and said, ‘You’re very talented. I want you to read this sticker.’ The sticker said, ‘Short people rock!’ It was awesome!”

There was a catch in Charice’s voice as she answered our question: If she could go back to any part of her past, which one would it be?

“I would go back to the part before my dad left us,” she said. “We are very happy although our family is just my mom, my brother and I. But of course, I’m still hoping for a happy, complete family.”

Amid her success, Charice cuts a solitary figure at some events, trailed by a handler. “These days, I feel really alone,” she admitted. “My family is in the Philippines.” That’s why a song she belted in a “Glee” episode hit her in the gut. “When I was shooting that scene and singing ‘All By Myself,’ it was very emotional for me.”

Charice paused when asked what chapter in her life she

would change and do differently if she could. “When I joined ‘Little Big Star,’ because I was in third place and of course, everybody wants to be a winner,” she said. “Why can’t we change that?” she asked, laughing. She was just 12 at the time, and wanted desperately to win the P1-million grand prize in the “American Idol”-type TV contest for children.

What did she learn from that setback? “It was very painful,” Charice confessed. “I was sad because I really wanted to help my mom. I was depressed for two or three months. I was just in my room, thinking of giving up. But my mom told me, ‘You don’t have to be like this. You can do better. I believe in your talent. That prize was not meant for you. There will be something better.’”

We asked how she reacts to the oft-expressed comment by some that there are plenty of Charice Pempengcos in the Philippines and that she was just

fortunate that her videos went viral. A fan, David Dueñas, posted the videos on YouTube, landing Charice her first big TV guest spot in Korea and a fateful invitation on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show.”

Vulnerable moments

Charice replied: “It’s true there are a lot of great singers in the Philippines. But one of the reasons that I got discovered was my story. I’ve been working since I was seven. I call it work because I joined like a hundred singing contests. I told my mother to stop working. I had to go to school at the same time and it was crazy and now I’m here. I’m not saying it’s the best story ever but [it was a big factor].”

She has sung with brio even at the most formidable U.S. events and in famous venues—from President Obama’s pre-inauguration galas to the Madison Square Garden. Charice revealed, however, that she still

gets butterflies in her stomach before she strides onstage.

And when is she most vulnerable? “Reading some of the negative stuff sometimes still affects me,” Charice admitted. “Every time I feel insecure or hurt, I post a quote [on my Twitter]. Yeah, that is another thing not known about me. I post something like, ‘Behind my smile is everything you’ll never understand.’ That’s how I do it. I want to let it out.”

Long-term goals

Charice, who turned 19 last month, considers her birthday last year memorable because she spent it with 500 underprivileged children. Still very much a young girl at heart, she said, “And I got to dance with my crush in the Philippines, [actor] Sam Milby!”

As for her long-term goals, Charice said: “Just in case I don’t last in show business, I would love to be a lawyer.” Why law? “If I go into entertainment law,” she quipped, chuckling, “I can [write] my own contracts!”

When we prodded her to share what she dreams of achieving five years from now, she paused and then said: “Maybe become a Grammy winner, a successful actress.” We said we could see her in musical theater, too, but she demurred: “Maybe someday—I love my career right now as a pop singer.”

Before we put down the phone, we asked Charice if she could describe in three words her journey thus far. After yet another pause, Charice, slowly choosing and seemingly savoring what each word meant to her, said: “Enlightening...unbelievable...unexpected!”

Jolina wants an Italian wedding just like in her favorite movies

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

“I’m in heaven.” Singer-actress Jolina Magdangal says she’s still on cloud nine, reeling in excitement after rock musician Mark Escueta popped the big question two weeks ago. “I get dizzy thinking of the things we have to do,” she says of the wedding preparations.

She recently caught Mark drafting a to-do list, Jolina says. “He’s so cute. We don’t have a date yet, but he said we should decide the theme, and everything would follow.”

Jolina dreams of a “European-inspired” nuptials and reception. “Remember the wedding scene in ‘Letters to Juliet,’ or that one in ‘Under the Tuscan Sun’? Very Italian—long table, lanterns and grapes.”

The ring

She’s brandishing an engagement ring that Mark had ordered from a jeweler-friend. “The inside is engraved with the words ‘Ikaw ang buhay ko (You are my life).’ When we feel romantic, we talk in Tagalog,” Jolina says.

She wept when he put the ring on her, she recounts. “He said, ‘Don’t worry, your parents already know.’ He had asked permission from my mom and dad.”



Engaged: Mark Escueta and Jolina Magdangal

Mark went through the wringer, she relates. “He would drive all the way to our house in Tagaytay in the daytime, then go back to Manila at night. Mom said he’s the real deal.”

Jolina and Mark share other passions apart from music. “We love biking around Tagaytay or Alabang on weekends. We’re into photography. And we both love yogurt.”

To think, they almost didn’t meet. “I had a concert in Taiwan that was postponed because of a storm,” Jolina recalls. “When it finally pushed through, Mark was also there.”

As for that inevitable question: She’s not quitting show biz. “Life will go on,” Jolina says. “Only our priorities will change. My mom said she’s at peace because I found someone who will help me grow.”

Newcomer gets ‘Amaya’ lead

By **MARINEL R. CRUZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

All he wanted was to raise some cash for a day on the beach with friends. Mikael Daez got more than he bargained for: an artist contract with GMA 7 and a lead role in its biggest drama project to date.

“My mom stopped giving me allowance after I finished college. A friend of mine suggested that I join a fashion show. My life was never the same after that,” Mikael recounted during the recent media launch for the epic drama series “Amaya.”

The 23-year-old looker joined Mercator Model Artist Management, which also handles the careers of model-actors JC Tiuseco, Akihiro Sato and Daniel Matsunaga. Mikael made print and TV ads. In October, Mikael got a call to audition for



Mikael Daez, right, with Sid Lucero and Marian Rivera in the Kapuso epic series.

“Amaya.”

He didn’t exactly jump for joy. “I’m not into the arts at all. I didn’t sing or act.” Mikael had taken up a business management course at the Ateneo de Manila University. He is the second of eight kids. His dad

passed away seven years ago.

“I agreed to audition just to experience it,” he said. “I saw Marian Rivera. I wondered if that was really her. In December, I was told that I got a part.”

Mikael joined a weekly acting workshop. “Everything was

a shock to me. It was decided that I should first work on an episode of ‘Spooky Nights’ with Marian. I was thankful for that.”

No trouble kissing

In “Amaya,” Mikael plays Lumad, the heroine’s friend and protector. “Amaya (Marian) is torn between two lovers—Lumad and Sid Lucero’s character, Bagani. We’re both good guys [in the story]. It’ll be tough for her.”

Mikael is also in the remake of the Joey Gosengfiao camp classic, “Temptation Island,” in theaters this year. He plays Ricardo, a role initially given to Paulo Avelino, who reportedly fell ill before filming started.

Did he have trouble with his kissing scene with French-Filipino actress Solenn Heussaff? “To me it’s just work. I’ve kissed a girl before, Solenn has kissed a boy before—so we’re cool. The director said, the kiss had to look very sexy and passionate. That’s what we did.”

Maharlika – Opinyon

A rules-based regime in the South China Sea

The rule of law is the bedrock of peace, order and fairness in modern societies. The rise of a rules-based international system has been the great equalizer in global affairs. Respect and adherence to international law have preserved peace and resolved conflicts. International law has given equal voice to nations regardless of political, economic or military stature, banishing the unlawful use of sheer force.

Nowhere is the pursuit and promotion of a rules-based international system more germane, than in the definition and the protection of the integrity of the territory of a country. An established and well-defined territory, terrestrial or maritime, is a sine qua non for the existence of any nation-state. In a global community of complementing and competing interests, a rules-based international system bestows clarity, definitiveness and legitimacy to territorial claims.

Where there are disputes, rules provide an effective tool for peaceful and fair resolution.

Not since the Panganiban (Mischief) Reef incident in 1995 has the Philippines faced serious challenges in the West Philippine Sea, otherwise known as the South China Sea. For instance, our ownership of the Kalayaan Island Group features and our legitimate maritime jurisdictions have been contested by certain nations, even as the Philippines' sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Kalayaan are firmly grounded on international law.

A rules-based approach therefore provides the

key to securing our claims and advancing the peaceful settlement of disputes for all in the South China Sea.

For the Philippines, certainly, the primacy of international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, UNCLOS, is the cornerstone on which we define and protect our territory and maritime entitlements in the South China Sea. It is this principle and the requirements of UNCLOS that governed the passage in 2009 of the Philippine Archipelagic Baselines Law, R.A. 9522.

The same principles underpin the two vital pieces of proposed legislation defining our maritime zones and archipelagic sea lanes, which have been certified as urgent by President Benigno S. Aquino III.

International law is also the guidepost by which the Philippines engages parties—claimants and non-claimants alike—toward a peaceful and just resolution of disputes and the guarantee of freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

This same pursuit of a rules-based system was behind the adoption of the 2002 ASEAN-China Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, DoC.

Paragraph 5 of the DoC provides that *“the Parties undertake to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability including, among others, refraining from action of inhabiting on the presently uninhabited reefs,*

shoals, cays, and other features and to handle their differences in a constructive manner.” It is noted that this very provision is being aggressively violated.

Under the DoC, the Parties also affirmed the need for a binding Code of Conduct (CoC) and agreed to work towards its realization. A CoC would concretely express our collective goal for rules-based actions by all concerned Parties.

To reinforce this goal, we offer a framework that transforms the SCS from an area of dispute to a Zone of Peace, Freedom, Friendship, and Cooperation (ZoPFF/C) by a segregation of disputed relevant features from the undisputed waters of the SCS consistent with UNCLOS. In the words of President Aquino, ZoPFF/C is a modality for ensuring that “what is ours is ours, and with what is disputed, we can work towards joint cooperation.”

For example, Recto (Reed) Bank is part of the continental shelf of the western coast of Palawan Province in the Philippines. It is about 85 nautical miles from the nearest coast of Palawan and therefore well within the 200 nautical miles Continental Shelf of the Philippine archipelago under UNCLOS. In contrast, it is roughly 595 nautical miles from the nearest coast of China. This means



By **ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Albert F. Del Rosario is the Department of Foreign Affairs secretary of the Philippines.

that the Philippines has unequivocal sovereign rights over Recto (Reed) Bank.

Since the Recto (Reed) Bank is ours, it can only be exclusively developed by the Philippines. The Philippines may however invite foreign investors to assist in developing the area in accordance with Philippine laws.

The disputed features, on the other hand, can be transformed into a Joint Cooperation Area for joint development and the establishment of a marine protected area for biodiversity conservation under ZoPFF/C.

We are confident that ZoPFF/C represents an important contribution to securing peace, stability and progress in the SCS within a rule-of-law framework, and that the concept deserves serious and favorable consideration by countries with stakes in the SCS.

The Philippines' policy in the SCS, both with respect to securing its terrestrial and maritime domain and to advocating dispute resolution and joint cooperation where applicable, is grounded on an unwavering adherence to international law. Since international law must be observed, it behooves the Philippines to embrace this imperative to the fullest.

We expect nothing less from our international partners.

EDITORIAL

Naked aggression

In an age when colonialism seems like a distant memory, China has been signaling its determination to assert its sovereignty over marine territories also being claimed by its neighbors—by force, if necessary.

Already in the last four months, Philippine authorities have counted at least six Chinese military incursions into Philippine territory. And on at least two such occasions, the Chinese vessels acted belligerently. On Feb. 25, for instance, a Chinese missile frigate drove away three Philippine fishing vessels anchored on Jackson Atoll by first threatening to shoot them and then actually firing three shots into the water. A few weeks later, in March, Chinese vessels threatened to ram a Philippine-commissioned boat conducting seismic studies at the Reed Bank. Then in May another Chinese vessel unloaded construction materials in Amy Douglas Shoal.

These shoals and atolls are less than 100 nautical miles from Palawan and well within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone as defined by the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. As Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda put it, “You are speaking of western Palawan, you are not speaking of the Spratlys,” and Palawan is not a disputed area.

China is so confident that it will have its way with its smaller neighbors that it has announced that it would send its biggest oil rig to start drilling in the disputed Spratlys. It dismisses its neighbors' claims to the Spratlys by saying there is nothing for them to claim since the area rightfully belongs to China.

But even as China intensifies its show of force, Chinese officials continue to reassure its neighbor that it wants nothing more than peace. In Singapore last Sunday, Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie said his country was committed to “peace and stability” in the South China Sea. He said China would never threaten any country or “seek hegemony.”

Maybe China has a different definition of what constitutes peace, but firing shots over fishing vessels and pushing away research ships are not peaceful acts anywhere.

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Myths about OFWs

There is just too much bleeding-heart sentimentalization over overseas Filipino workers, bordering on ridiculousness. They have been practically mythologized, in a manner they themselves would detest.

Yes, there are horror stories—runaways from cruel employers with no one to turn to in a strange land, young women forced into prostitution—but we have to put things in perspective. We are talking here of a population of eight million OFWs, nearly as big as the population of Switzerland or Greece.

One reason for the depiction of OFWs as the downtrodden of the earth is that their alleged plight are being exploited by NGOs, here and abroad, which get donations from European leftist organizations or Christian do-gooder associations, purportedly in order to come to the succor of these “slaves” of global capitalism. More often, though, the donations merely finance the fat salaries (they call it “allowances”) of NGO elites who often have never worked a regular job yet manage to enjoy the comforts of cosmopolitan cities.

With the caricature of OFWs imposed on us, the government has also been at a loss on what policies are really needed not only to assist OFWs themselves, but to harness their income for national development.

Myth 1: “OFWs are our country's poor, the downtrodden, and they risk life and limb in strange lands for pittance wages.”

Well, they certainly make more than journalists writing about their “plight,” even more than a columnist writing two columns a week for this paper. OFWs' average salary, based on several surveys by the Asian Development Bank and on extrapolations from total remittances abroad, is P40,000 to P50,000 per month. And that's not only tax-free (by Philippine law) but often is the net or disposable income since his board and lodging are often free.

A sentence in a recent column by a colleague trying to portray the sufferings of OFWs nearly floored me: “The poor Filipino farm girl arrives in a foreign land and is soon snatched by her strange employer.” Well, in the first place, a poor farm girl doesn't have any business arriving alone and without any support group even in Metro Manila, where she is as likely to be snatched by strange employers as anywhere in the globe.

Overseas employment, in fact, is closed to our poorest, as literacy and facility in English are prerequisites for work abroad—and I mean all, even for nightlife entertainment places, or for farms in Israel. An Asian Development Bank survey in 2004 found that 58 percent of OFWs surveyed had several years

in college, college degrees or even masteral units or degrees, while 28 percent had gone only through high school.

In fact, the reason there has been a massive migration of workers abroad is not because of extreme poverty in our country, but because OFWs are so skilled, likeable and English-literate that there is a huge global demand for them.

Rather than the poorest, the typical OFW comes from the C+ class. They are not starving, and they live in decent houses. OFWs who come from towns outside metro Manila are not “poor farm girls” but mostly what we would consider the middle class in those areas. The impetus for their working abroad is a very strong and admirable sense of ambition that they could move out of the C class into which they and their fathers had been born, that they could finally build their own concrete house, and put their children to college in Manila.

In an ADB survey, the usual, expected response in focus-group discussions to the question why they decided to work abroad was that they wanted to have a higher income to uplift their families' status. However, just as important a reason were “the perks and excitement of travelling abroad, the adventure.”

One little-appreciated fact in our OFW phenomenon is that it represents the Filipino females' massive and liberating entry into the work force, in the manner that American women really first got into the workforce in World War II. While this has entailed risks to Filipino women—and the horror stories of OFWs indeed involves mainly domestic female workers—such risks have also emerged whenever females have left the protection of the home to work in a male-dominated world.

One characteristic of OFWs is their gutsiness, their willingness to take risks, as in going to a strange land to work, often even illegally. One term I often heard from OFWs when asked why they decided to work abroad: “makipagsapalaran.” That is a beautiful Filipino term with the root word meaning “fate.” “Makipagsapalaran” is to test fate, with the connotation of being bold in doing so. This characteristic is the reason many returning OFWs have become leaders, even politicians, in their towns.

What's also admirable about OFWs is that while they live austere lives abroad, they send much of



Outlook
By **RIGOBERTO D. TIGLAO**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

their income (averaging 60 percent, according to the ADB study) to their families back home, even when these already have comfortable lives or even if their children are already productive grown-ups. The more common horror story about OFWs is how their children or spouses splurge their remittances on the latest cell-phone model and designer clothes.

Myth 2: “OFWs are unskilled workers, and the typical OFW is a domestic helper exploited cruelly like slaves.”

That may be true in certain places like Hong Kong and Singapore, but it is not representative of the current stock of OFWs. Using data on the deployment of OFWs from 1998 to 2000, their main occupations are: production workers—30 percent; professional and white collar staff—28 percent; domestic workers and caregivers—28 percent.

“Production workers” are mostly skilled workers such as electricians, welders, carpenters, auto mechanics, crane and earth-moving equipment operators. Their average salary ranges from P60,000 to P80,000.

On the other hand, in North America and Northern Europe the stereotype of an OFW is that of a professional often making more than P100,000 a month: engineers, hotel supervisors, nurses and medical technicians.

Of course domestic help and caregivers make up a significant percentage of OFWs, and in several Western European countries, the stereotype of a Filipino is either a female domestic help or a male household maintenance man. That doesn't mean that they are poor or necessarily exploited. The standard wage for a domestic help in Greece, where I had been ambassador, was 900 euros (P55,000). An OFW there who became a good friend of mine earns enough to be able to visit the Philippines twice a year and to have two residences, one in her hometown and another in Metro Manila.

To portray OFWs as our poorest, and even to weep for them as if they were wimps or refugees from poverty, is to denigrate them and to miss their audacity.

Rigoberto D. Tiglao is the current ambassador of the Philippines to Athens, Greece and is a former press secretary under the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

Maharlika – Samut' Sari

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Brian Tiamzon Torres Jr., who graduated on May 14, 2011 from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a bachelor's degree in Science, majoring in Hotel Management. Greetings come from Mom and Dad, Lizelle and Jun, Lindsay and Nick, nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. Other photo shows the new graduate with his mom.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Jeromalyn Wanphen Santos and Jesus Lizama Santos on your graduation! Best wishes on your graduation and good luck on your future endeavors. Greetings come from your Chungi-Batitang family.



»» Congratulations to Amanda Maria Wanphen Santos and Monishia Marie Lizama Santos on your graduation on June 16, 2011! Best wishes and good luck on your future! Greetings come from your Chungi-Batitang family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

«« Congratulations to Keoni Agulto Lizama on your graduation! Soon you will start your new career, now that your graduation is here. You've worked so hard to get this far, just had to tell you how proud we are! We love you! Greetings from your Agulto family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 6th birthday to our little princess, Kynalyn Nona Ann Borja, who is celebrating her special day today, June 11, 2011! May God bless you with many more birthdays to come. We love you, and enjoy your special day! Greetings come from Mickaenna, Mom, Dad, and the whole familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHRISTENING

Parents Twenie and Manny Sencio of IBB-Tinian pose with their son, Matt Adriel, during his Christening party on June 4, 2011, on Tinian.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

SOFT OPENING

Members of the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee pose for a group photo during the festival's soft opening on Thursday night. The largest arts celebration on island will run until Sunday at the American Memorial Park West of the Bell Tower.



ARTS FESTIVAL PERFORMERS

Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts will perform on Flame Tree Festival at the American Memorial Park this weekend, June 11 and 12. On both nights, their show will start at 6:30pm. Please come and enjoy the spectacular presentation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CLARISSA V. DAVID

ISLAND VISITORS

The 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival committee holds a welcome dinner reception for the New Zealand delegates at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan Wednesday night. The nine-member delegation gave a sneak preview of their performances at the reception that was also attended by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Youngstyle

An inner city school fights to save its orchestra

CHICAGO (AP)—The violin isn't pretty, but its scratched frame has been well-loved by the girl who cradles it now, and those who played it before her. Her mother calls it her daughter's "soul mate."

The instrument doesn't belong to Nidalis Burgos. It is on loan from her school, where the seventh-grader packs it up each weekday to bring it home.

She practices anywhere she can—in her bedroom, in the kitchen, on her back porch so she can hear the sound reverberate off the brick apartment buildings that line the alley. Usually, she warms up with "Ode to Joy," her mother's favorite song, and a fitting theme for a girl who truly seems to love playing.

"Music brings a little peace to the mind," the 13-year-old says.

Her own frame is so tiny that she plays a violin that is three-quarters the standard size. But when she plays it, she feels big, powerful even.

That is a common feeling among the 85 students who play in the after-school string orchestras at the Lafayette Specialty School, a public school in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood, where more than 90 percent of the students come from poverty.

Though gentrifying with occasional upscale condominium buildings, this is a place where it's not always easy to be a kid, where gang members are often seen standing on street corners, and where too many students are witnesses to violence.

"They live in one of the wealthiest cities and wealthiest nations in the world, and some of these students have barely anything," principal Trisha Shrode says. "Some of them don't have clean clothes. They don't have items for school."

Here, a music program is not just a music program. For many students, it is a way out of the neighborhood, to a better high school and, in some cases, a better life.

That is why Shrode and her staff are working so hard to save it, though it remains to be seen whether they can do that.

These are difficult times for arts programs in schools. Across the country, and not just in low-income districts, music programs are often seen as expendable.

In wealthier Colts Neck, N.J., for instance, the high school is losing its choral program. "It's very discouraging," says Debra Nemeth-Tarby, an elementary teacher in the district who, like a lot of music teachers, has become all too used to the economic cycles that often imperil the arts before other subjects. She worries that her own two grown children also have chosen careers in music, one of them as a teacher.

Some districts have laid off music teachers already. Still more teachers are waiting for school budgets to be finalized to see if they'll still have jobs in the fall. Some districts have delayed the start of instrumental music classes to fifth or sixth grade, instead of fourth.

"It's a gentler way to cut—but it's still a cut," says Mary Leuhrs, executive director of the NAMM Foundation, the philanthropic and educational arm of the National Association of Music Merchants.

In Los Angeles and other cities, students and parents have protested proposed cuts to music programs.

In Chicago at the Lafayette school, Shrode and her staff have had their own share of budget pain. In recent years, she has circulated a survey to ask every teacher which programs they most wanted to keep. Each time, the after-school orchestra program has come up first or second on the list. So, so far, she has cut other programs instead—full-day kindergarten, for instance.

But now there are new funding challenges.

The nonprofit Merit School of Music, which started Lafayette's after-school orchestra program a decade ago, notified Shrode recently that it would



In this May 5, 2011 photo, Nidalis Burgos keeps her eye on the conductor during a rehearsal for the after-school orchestra at Lafayette Specialty School in Chicago.

have to cut its financial support, from covering about 70 percent of the annual cost to covering 60 percent. Duffie Adelson, Merit's president, blamed a fundraising climate that is difficult at best.

Next year, the school will be responsible for about \$46,000, which partly covers pay for teachers and instrument upkeep and replacement. That's a more than \$10,000 increase in cost to the school.

And there may be more cuts in the school budget coming, as the new Chicago mayor and his schools CEO take office.

A lot of principals have resigned themselves to the constant struggle their arts programs face.

But Shrode has decided to try something different, something creative.

The school had always had bake sales and sold concert tickets, CDs and T-shirts to raise money for the program. But what if they upped the ante? What if they and their students could get private donors—and even neighborhood residents—to give enough money to make the program self-sustaining?

"We have to draw on resources that schools have otherwise ignored," Shrode insists.

Some call it an optimistic, if not crazy idea, especially in a low-income neighborhood where people have little to give to a program like this—and when outside donors also are scarce.

But Shrode wants to try. She wants the music program to not just survive, but to grow to accommodate the many students on the program's waiting list.

At 3 p.m. each school day, orchestra students head to a large classroom for practice.

At first, the room is the very definition of cacophony with its mix of stringed instruments being tuned and the rowdiness of students coming down from the dramas of the day.

Then Arturs Weible, the school's music teacher, stands before them, his voice booming orders to sit down and settle in. He is one of four instructors hired by Merit to run the after-school orchestras and to lead small group tutorials; his students range from third- to eighth-graders.

Though not all are friends, he says, "they all get that we're part of a group," something that rarely happens during the school day.

"It's at that after-school part of the day," he says, "where the kids all come together and really make a wonderful experience."

When he begins conducting, discord slowly turns to harmony.

"Oooooohhhh!" he says loudly, smiling or even hopping up and down when he likes something his students play together.

"I live for that," Weible says. "THAT is the joy in teaching right there."

His enthusiasm for the music is clearly infectious with his students. When he is around, they're more likely to sit up a bit straighter and to keep each other in check.

"Nobody works harder than Mr. Weible," says Nidalis, who is well aware that her teacher—a father of two whose wife is an aide at another school—also has second and third jobs, giving private music lessons at his home and teaching university classes on weekends.

On Fridays, Weible is often at the school until 5 p.m. with a group of "all stars," who've maintained the best grades in their core classes and who've become orchestra leaders. Nidalis is one of them.

"Knowing how hard he works makes me want to work harder, too," she says.

Her mom, Rousemary Vega, marvels at the difference Weible and the Merit music program have made at the school, which Vega attended in the late '80s and early '90s. It's the reason she has her children stay there, she says.

"People used to say, 'Oh, that school!' But now they're showing everyone that they have something to offer," she says.

Her hopes for Nidalis, her oldest child, are "big, very big," says Vega, who has worked as a baby sitter since she was laid off from her job as an administrative assistant with the city of Chicago. Nidalis' stepfather is a landscaper.

Nidalis has her own big dreams. She hopes to get into Lane Tech High School on Chicago's North Side. She'd like to play in the orchestra there, wants to study hard so she can get into college. Eventually, she'd like to go to law school.

First things first—while attending eighth grade at Lafayette in the fall, she will likely be concertmistress for the advanced after-school orchestra, making her the designated student leader and teacher assistant.

It will be yet another accomplishment for a girl whose room in the family apartment is already lined with trophies and plaques—for honor roll, the science fair, pompom squad, perfect attendance and, of course, orchestra.

They are the kind of honors that have helped other Lafayette students get into some of the more highly sought-after public high schools in Chicago.

Eighth-grader Jaylen Hall will be going to one of those schools, Lincoln Park High School, in the fall. His mother, Yahaira Rivera, has little doubt that playing the violin helped him get in, helped him to focus.

"He's at the point where he could be doing other stuff that I could be struggling with—gangs or things that he shouldn't be into," she says.

That's why, even after they moved to a neighborhood 16 miles away, on the city's South Side, she continued to keep him enrolled at Lafayette, which is just northwest of downtown Chicago.

Each morning, they get up at 6 so Jaylen can get to school on time and his mom to her job at a bank near the school.

"Jaylen hates to be late, hates to be absent," his mother says, laughing. And that is absolutely fine with her.

Jaylen and about 100 others were up early on a recent chilly Saturday morning, gathering in the park for which Humboldt Park was named. It is a park often associated with drug deals and other crime.

This morning, however, parents, teachers and students were marching around its perimeter. They were joined by representatives of corporate and nonprofit organizations that have donated to the school's orchestra program.

At another school event, dubbed "Stuck for Strings," students bought strands of duct tape for \$1 apiece to literally tape those volunteers to a wall.

Both events were early signs that principal Shrode might just be right—that this community and other supporters would rally around her cause.

So far, the fundraisers have brought in more than \$6,000, while a neighborhood nonprofit called Reason to Give is well over halfway to its goal of raising another \$5,000 for the music program, Shrode said.

That will cover the cuts made in the Merit budget—but Shrode eventually would like to raise enough to cover the entire cost to the school, little by little, to make sure the program is always there.

As Weible likes to say, "We're doing it by hook or by crook. But we're getting there."

Leaders at the Merit School of Music have been so impressed that they invited students from the Lafayette orchestra to play at their spring fundraiser, an event attended by wealthy donors.

Leuhrs, from the NAMM Foundation, also praised the school's efforts.

"This is a relentlessness and belief in children that needs to be celebrated and acknowledged," she says.

She does worry that many schools in low-income neighborhoods might be missing out on federal funding for arts education through such programs as Title I because they don't know they can get it. Lafayette does get Title I money, which it can use for the music program. But Shrode says the needs at the school are so great for so many things that, if they can raise the orchestra money independently, they could use the federal money for, say, another reading intervention specialist or maybe even full-day kindergarten, some day.

For the young musicians at Lafayette, all that matters is that there is enough money so they can keep playing, as they did in May at a Merit festival at Chicago's downtown Orchestra Hall.

The morning of the concert, students rushed onto yellow school buses with their instruments, eager for their chance to play on the big stage.

"When the lights are shining, they do their best," Weible excitedly told a bus driver.

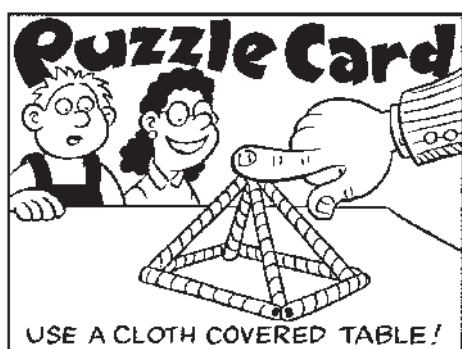
Some of the youngest students, on their first visit to Orchestra Hall, stared up at the ornate ceiling as they waited to play. Others fidgeted. One accidentally plucked a string, prompting a "shh" from an older student.

Nidalis and Jaylen were among those who played with an advanced group, which included students from other schools with Merit programs.

When they finished their three songs, all of them proudly took a bow.

"We rock!" Nidalis shouted, as they walked backstage and out of the auditorium.

She removed her shoes and skipped giddily through the hallways, the sound of applause and whistles still echoing behind her.

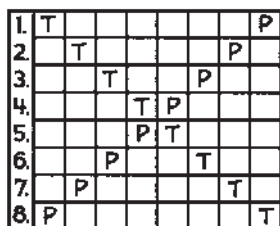


USE A CLOTH COVERED TABLE!
CHALLENGE YOUR FRIENDS to arrange eight soda straws so that they will form four equilateral triangles and one square. Our Puzzle Card shows how it's done.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE BIG WORDS!



Using the definitions and anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DEFINITION:

1. An earring shape.
2. Temporary substitutes.
3. Efforts to achieve.
4. To delay or put off.
5. Sequence of bookish events.
6. A colorful wall hanging.
7. A light musical.
8. Fair and comfortable.

ANAGRAM:

- dart + rope
pops + tags
tamp + test
open + stop
reps + chat
tray + step
poet + tear
lean + past

Illustrated by David Coulson

DON'T RUN OUT OF GAS solving this AlphaMath puzzle! You must replace the letters in the signs with the digits 0, 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. Try to get the highest possible total.



Our answer: C=7, A=8, P=9, T=1, I=8, L=8, R=7, O=0, M=3, N=4, S=9. 740 + 349 = 1089

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.



Answers: Bestowed, cobbled, faction, galleon, debate, heartens.

Answers: 1. Teardrop, 2. Stopgap, 3. Operetta, 4. Postpone, 5. Chapters, 6. Tapestry, 7. Operetta, 8. Pleasant.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American author Paul Auster who made the following sage observation: "Only the good doubt their own goodness, which is what makes them good in the first place. The bad know they are good, but the good know nothing. They spend their lives forgiving others, but they can't forgive themselves."

■ If summer where you are is starting to heat up, just be grateful you don't live in western Australia. There, the average temperature is 96 degrees F.—all year long.

■ Those who study such things claim that the supposed pirate tradition of walking the plank is a myth. Whenever pirates wanted to get rid of something—or somebody—they just tossed the offender overboard without ceremony.

■ When a baby is born it has more than 300 bones in its body, but due to bone fusion, adults end up with only 206 bones.

■ The next time you're planning a European vacation, make time to visit the coast of the Netherlands, where you can stay in one of the world's most unusual hotels. Along the banks of the Wadden Sea you'll find Harlingen Harbour Crane, an actual derrick that was once used to haul timber. These days it holds aloft luxurious sleeping quarters designed for only one party at a time. If you need a change of scenery, just head to the control room to swing the crane around until you find a view that strikes your fancy.

■ You may be surprised to learn that there is a growing interest in the new sport known as chess boxing. It's a hybrid sport in which competitors alternate 4-minute rounds of speed chess with 2-minute rounds of boxing. Since 2008, there have been 10 international competitions in London alone.

Thought for the Day: "It is useless to attempt to reason a man out of a thing he was never reasoned into."—Jonathan Swift

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— DAY : MAGIC MAZE • OBSERVANCES

N P N K I F C A X V E S Q A O
 L J H E C A X V T C S R R P N
 L J H G F D S B I Y R M X V T
 R P O V N M K T I G E E S D S
 R B Z E X I S W N D H U U T L
 R O Q T O I X N F I T Y B R O
 L J B E M E M O R I A L M O O
 I G F R G D R C B M F S U B F
 A Y A A A C X Y P P O P L A L
 W V L N E L L I T S A B O L L
 T F S S R E H T O M R P C O A

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

All Fools' Bastille Flag Mother's
 All Saints' Boxing Labor Poppy
 Armed Forces Columbus May Veterans
 Armistice Father's Memorial

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

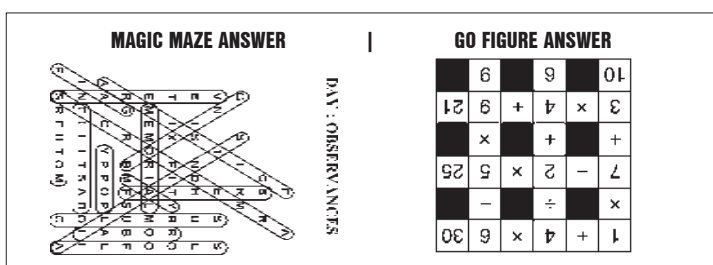
DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
 ★★★ GO FIGURE!

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×		÷		-	
	-		×		25
+		+		×	
	×		+		21
10		6		9	

1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7 9

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Are pets people? These folks say yes

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I just read your article about how people feel about their pets. I am one of the pet lovers who believes that they are part of our family. My husband and I have two teenage daughters and a 14-year-old deaf and blind border collie named Logan. I am Mom to Logan, my husband is Dad and our daughters are "Sissy" to her. We got her through a rescue league when she was about a year old.

I am a big supporter of shelters and helped form Justice for Dogs with Amy Touchette in Wolcott, Vt. I'm happy to see that the trend is going in the right direction about how to treat animals. Many people have told me over the years that when they die, they want to come back as my dog. If you had all day, I could give you the list of reasons why. Thank you.—Toni M., Hardwick, Vt.

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I read your column and have to put my say in, as I absolutely adore animals. They are great friends and are always there when people may not be. We had a cat about four years ago that had kittens and always killed the litters—until one day I got angry and saved the last kitten. As "Socks"



grew attached he treated me as a mother, and to this day I feel he is my baby boy, even though I am just 18. I go so far as to give him a little birthday each November.—Sign me, Socks' Mom in Illinois

DEAR READERS: Wow, thanks for the great letters! I received quite a response to my question of pet owners. It's clear that owners care deeply for their pets, and that's positive news.

Send your question or comment to ask@pawscorner.com, or write Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Meatloaf cupcakes for Father's Day

If Dad is a meat-and-potatoes type of guy, surprise him on Father's Day with this clever twist on a traditional "Meatloaf and Mashed Potatoes" menu item. Your kids will get their hands in the preparations as they form the meat mixture into mini loaves in a muffin pan. Top them with swirls of mashed potatoes and a whimsical garnish when they come out of the oven for eye-catching savory meatloaf cupcakes!

The recipe for the individual meatloaves has been one of our family favorites for years; not only for the fun size, but also for the special piquant sauce that gets its snappy taste from the nutmeg. The meat mixture goes together quickly and only requires extra-lean ground beef rather than the traditional addition of ground pork and veal.

MEATLOAF CUPCAKES

- 1 cup milk
- 2/3 cup breadcrumbs
- 1 1/2 pounds extra-lean ground beef
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup grated onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1/3 teaspoon sage

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Soak the breadcrumbs in the milk in a mixing bowl. Add the ground beef, slightly beaten eggs, onion, salt, pepper and sage. Mix well.
3. Form individual portions and place in 12 greased muffin pans or sturdy foil baking-cup liners. Cover each one with piquant sauce (below). Bake for 45 minutes. Makes 12.

Piquant sauce:

- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons ketchup
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson



Combine the ingredients in a small bowl.

Mashed potatoes "frosting" finale:

While the mini meatloaves bake, prepare 3 cups of your favorite mashed potato recipe. When the meat is done, carefully remove from muffin pan and spoon dollops of mashed potatoes on top of each "cupcake" to look like frosting. Or, pipe the potatoes from a zip-top plastic bag with a bottom corner snipped off.

Tip: Pull out this recipe for an April Fools' caper when friends stop by.

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Taylor Swift wins video of year at CMT Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Ludacris made a surprise appearance, as did Sheryl Crow's underwear. Lady Antebellum laid down a funky beat with Charles Kelley doing a Don Henley impression. And a sassy Wynonna Judd put Kid Rock in his place.

Actress Kristin Chenoweth's first CMT Music Awards left quite an impression Wednesday night.

"This show is entertaining," Chenoweth said. "I think the Oscars could learn something from it."

Recent trends continued as Taylor Swift's fans gave her the night's top honor—the fan-voted video of the year award for "Mine"—Miranda Lambert's "The House That Built Me" continued its extraordinary run and Lambert's new husband, Blake Shelton, was the night's only multiple winner.

As often is the case at the CMT Awards, though, the show was as memorable for its unlikely mashups and celebrity cross-pollination moments as for its winners.

Let's start with Crow's underwear, which made a brief appearance after she sang "Collide" with host Kid Rock. The singer wore a short, white skirt as she sat on a stool alongside Kid Rock and briefly flashed the camera as she stood up. It happened in a blink of the eye, but in the age of DVRs the moment went viral on Twitter, something Crow acknowledged about an hour later when she and Sara Evans presented an award.

"Well, at least you were



From left to right, Reid, Kimberly and Neil Perry from The Band Perry accept the Breakthrough Video of the Year Award at the 2011 CMT Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn. on Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

wearing underwear," Evans told Crow.

"I was wearing underwear because I'm good, clean, wholesome family fun," Crow joked.

That wasn't the night's only surprising moment.

Swift joined Shania Twain for their own pre-recorded faux movie trailer of "Thelma & Louise" that included guest appearances by Donald Trump and Kenny Rogers. Justin Bieber induced tears from teenagers as he walked the red carpet with Rascal Flatts. Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver and "Dancing With the Stars" champion Hines Ward wore cowboy boots and shook his hips on stage.

Lady A turned in one of the night's most interesting performances. The trio opened with its record-setting single "Just a Kiss" before singer Charles Kelley jumped on the drums as the band switched to Prince's "Kiss."

Wynonna Judd put Kid Rock in his place and taught him a little something about country on a duet of his "Hell, Yes, I'm Country." And near the end of the show, fans audibly gasped as Twain slipped and fell on her way to the stage.

Jason Aldean, who was shut out after earning a leading four nominations, topped off the night with a surprise version of his hip hop-infused hit "Dirt Road An-

them" with rapper Ludacris. It was a perfect end to a show that thrived on unlikely pairings.

Kid Rock, hosting for the second year, thought the song was a great illustration of where country is going.

"I've said this before: Country and hip hop aren't that far apart in spirit if you break it down," he said after the show. "They're both blues music."

Swift, who won the fan-voted artist of the year award at the Academy of Country Music Awards earlier this year, joined the show via live video uplink from Wisconsin where she's on tour after the fan-voted award was announced.

"I wish I could be there, but I'm hanging out with 15,000 of my closest friends in Milwaukee," Swift said as frenzied fans screamed in the background.

Shelton and Lambert also weren't able to make it.

Shelton, who appeared via video uplink from the set of his reality contest show "The Voice," won male video of the year for "Who Are You When I'm Not Looking" and best web video for "Kiss My Country Ass." Sugarland kicked off the night with the first win, taking duo video of the year for "Stuck Like Glue."

Lady Antebellum won group video of the year for "Hello World." The Band Perry won breakthrough video for "If I Die Young." Jimmy Buffett and Zac Brown Band won best CMT performance of the year for "Margaritaville." And pop heartthrob Bieber added a CMT belt buckle to the pile of trophies he's won in the last year, taking home best collaboration with Rascal Flatts for "That Should Be Me."

Long a fan of Rascal Flatts, Bieber drew some of the night's biggest cheers from the crowd in a corridor of Bridgestone Arena, where the red carpet was moved to avoid oppressive temperatures near 100. One of the night's largest entourages included Rascal Flatts singer Gary LeVox's daughters, 10-year-old Brittany and 8-year-old Brooklyn, who were clearly smitten with the teen sensation.

"If I wanted to go home, I had no choice but to bring them," LeVox said.

Duchess doubtful her TV show could air in Britain

NEW YORK (AP)—The Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson says it's doubtful her new television series "Finding Sarah" could ever air in Britain.

"I think that Fergie baiting sells a lot of papers in Britain, and Fergie does tend to fall into the traps so could it air on Britain? Probably not without dramatic ramifications and negativity," Ferguson says.

"Finding Sarah" is a six-part series airing on Oprah Winfrey's Network, OWN, where Ferguson goes on a soulful journey to rebuild her self-esteem. Along the way, she is helped by experts (and friends of Winfrey) including Dr. Phil McGraw and financial adviser Suze Orman.

Ferguson says the most difficult lesson she had to learn was about regret and to accept that she can't change the past.

One regret she is likely referring to is the scandal from May of last year where she was filmed by an undercover journalist, posing as an Indian businessman negotiating a payment to the duchess for access to Prince Andrew.

Ferguson maintains that she never really would have sold access to her former husband and that she needed the money for a friend.

Now, she also says she had a feeling something wasn't right at the time and knows she should have listened to her gut.

"I knew this guy was wrong. I knew that he was a journalist. I had an instinct as it was and yet my people-pleasing addiction kept me going on that if he could help me and if he could invest in my business. And he also promised to build schools in Afghanistan that maybe then everyone would love me more or maybe then all my staff would be paid and you know what? It wasn't real."

Ferguson says she has the proper tools now to deal with her life. She can spot and dismiss negative thoughts that used to plague her.

"A thought comes in and it's a nasty thought, it's horrible about yourself ... or horrible about someone else," she says. "Change it. You just made it up. It's not real. So how are you allowing your thoughts to ruin your day if it's not real? You've made it up. That's it."

"Finding Sarah" premieres June 12 on OWN.

'Three Cups' author undergoes heart surgery

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP)—The embattled author of "Three Cups of Tea" has undergone open-heart surgery nearly two months after reports questioned the accuracy of the book and whether he benefited from the charity he founded, the charity's spokeswoman said.

Doctors discovered an aneurysm, in addition to a hole, in Greg Mortenson's heart that had left him with low oxygen levels, Central Asia Institute acting director Anne Beyersdorfer said. Surgeons repaired the hole and tied down the aneurysm, she added.

"We feel very fortunate it did not burst or throw a clot," Beyersdorfer said.

She told the Bozeman Daily Chronicle that the operation took place last week but she declined to say where it was performed or where Mortenson was recuperating. She said he expected to eventually return to his Bozeman home for a recovery that could take weeks or months.

Mortenson entered a Bozeman hospital after the reports

surfaced in April alleged he lied about events in his best-selling book. The reports from "60 Minutes" and author Jon Krakauer also questioned whether Mortenson financially benefited from the institute and whether CAI built the number of schools in it claimed.

Last month, two Montana lawmakers filed a lawsuit against Mortenson, claiming they were duped into buying the book and donating to his charity based on lies.

They are trying to get class-action status for the lawsuit so it can be joined by the millions of people who bought Mortenson's books, heard his speeches or donated to his charity.

Beyersdorfer said CAI has hired attorneys for the civil suit, but declined to name the firm.

Beyersdorfer said donations continue to come in and that CAI is focusing on building more schools overseas this year.

"There is a large population of CAI supporters who have not lost faith," she said.

The Fountain of Youth does exist

By GEOFF BOUCHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—The characters in "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" weren't the only ones struggling to find the Fountain of Youth—the filmmaking team also learned that the mystical site is an elusive goal.

"Deciding what the fountain would look like, that was a long, difficult process, and it ended up being one of the toughest decisions we had," director Rob Marshall said. "My production designer, John Myhre—who has worked with me on every movie I've done and won Oscars for two of them—John DeLuca, the executive producer, who is like my right arm, we all sat down and looked at 60 or more ideas for the Fountain of Youth. It was really important to us. We knew the whole movie was a race to this place and everybody meets there. This place that exists in our imagination, it could be anything." (Spoiler alert: Don't read further if you don't want to know details about the movie.)

Marshall added: "We looked at everything you could imagine, and in the end, we did something that looked very natural with this sort of circular stone with a very simple drip. We also needed something that could be crushed and broken—so not just a pool of water—for the ending we had in mind."

The Fountain of Youth as shown in the film drips off a curved rock that, with its simple contours, ancient solidity and textures, is more like Stonehenge than "Fantasy Island." Marshall said there was a temptation to go big and elaborate

with the Fountain of Youth—especially without the franchise's reliable sea battles this time out—but he and producer Jerry Bruckheimer resisted.

"We began with the idea that this is a secret place where there was a temple, perhaps, once built around this natural phenomenon," Marshall said. "It's tricky. You want something new, something that hasn't been seen before. We wanted simplicity. But we looked at every option. We had a floating fountain at one point, but we thought that was too sci-fi. We had this whole crystal thing we looked at, but that felt overused and overdone. We thought of surrounding it with a lot of tribal things, like totem poles of a kind. We went through every cultural thing and these images of the fantastic. But our story and our movie took us to this place and this Fountain of Youth."

More than a physical setting for the climactic battle, the fountain is also the key to the message of this fourth "Pirates" adventure, Marshall said. When Capt. Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) skips his chance to taste immortality, he is revealing the mission statement of the buccaneer film.

"The fountain is, ultimately, the antithesis of the philosophy of a pirate," Marshall explains. "Jack says at the end that he wants to live each day like it's his last, and living forever takes that away from you. He wants to live on the edge."

"That's the thrill of being a pirate. He had the opportunity to live forever but chose the pirate's way. It's like he says, 'It's a pirate's life for me.'"

"On Stranger Tides," released May 20, now stands as the highest-grossing film of the year with \$790 million in worldwide box office.

CMT edits out Shania's awards show fall in replays

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Shania Twain's stumble during the CMT Music Awards show is being edited out of replays to save her from more embarrassment.

Twain slipped and fell on her way to the stage Wednesday night during a live telecast. The channel left the spill out of a replay following the show and during another replay Thursday.

John Hamlin, the show's executive producer, says the last thing the channel wants to do is embarrass anyone, particularly



someone as gracious as Twain.

While CMT edited out the fall, footage of it aired on cable news channels and was available on the Internet.

Twain said via her Twitter account that she was not hurt, except for a sore thumb.

Shania Twain presents the Male Video of the Year Award at the 2011 CMT Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn. on Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

AP

Ann Curry makes debut as 'Today' co-anchor

NEW YORK (AP)—After 14 years as the understudy, Ann Curry is in the big chair now at NBC's "Today" show.

She had her first day Thursday as co-anchor with Matt Lauer on television's top-rated morning show. Her predecessor, Meredith Vieira, had an on-air going-away party Wednesday.

Curry has been on the show since 1997 as the regular newsreader, and has filled in as co-host dozens of times.

She referred to that in her open-



ing, saying, "I'm Ann Curry, in for I guess nobody this morning - me, myself and I. It's nice to be able to say that, isn't it?"

Lauer welcomed her, saying she had already been on the show so long that "it's a little bit like a member of the family moving to a new seat at the table."

In a May 27, 2011 photo Ann Curry, the new co-host of the NBC "Today" television program, appears on the show, in New York's Rockefeller Center.

AP

Kirstie Alley says she's paying late Fla. taxes

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—Actress Kirstie Alley says she is paying \$41,000 in property taxes from last year on her Tampa-area mansion after published reports noted the delinquency.

The "Cheers" star and recent "Dancing With the Stars" runner-up called it an oversight. A spokesman released a statement Thursday saying "we were not aware of the amount owed, and her accountant never received the bill."

Pinellas County tax records showed Alley owed \$41,395, including fees and interest, on the \$1.73 million mansion on Clearwater Harbor that she bought in 2008. The 2010 tax bill was due April 1.

Tax office spokesman Chad McLeod confirmed that one of Alley's representatives called Thursday and promised to send a certified check.

Cowell talks Cole's exit at 'X Factor' auditions

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—At auditions filmed Thursday before a live audience for "The X Factor," Simon Cowell seemed to want people to move on from the shakeup on the show's judges panel replacing British pop singer Cheryl Cole with American counterpart Nicole Scherzinger.

"It wasn't really such a big deal as everybody thought. ... Truth is you've got to move on. It's about the contestants. They've got no interest in us bickering," Cowell said at the auditions in New Jersey.

Earlier in the week, Fox and producers announced Cole was out and Scherzinger, who origi-

nally was signed on to co-host the show, would slide over to the judges table alongside Cowell, Paula Abdul and LA Reid.

He said the show will not re-tape episodes already filmed that feature Cole.

"Show it. I mean it's reality TV. There's no point in lying about it," he said. "It is what it is."

Cowell said it was a no brainer to slide Scherzinger over to the judge's table when the position opened up.

"I've worked with Nicole before. I think she would have killed me if I had given the job to someone else. She's very good at this. You know, she

knows what she's doing and so it was an easy transition."

Cowell left "American Idol" in May of 2010 after its ninth season. He said the absence from American TV has been good.

"I realized how much I missed working here in America. I really, really love making shows here," he said. But "the gap's been good for me because I appreciate it more now."

It seems as if distance has also been good for Cowell and Abdul's working relationship. Abdul sneaked up behind Cowell as he greeted fans at the Prudential Center and in turn he gave her a hug and a kiss.

Hirai, whose hometown of Higurashi was not affected.

Hirai mourns Japan quake at Hong Kong performance

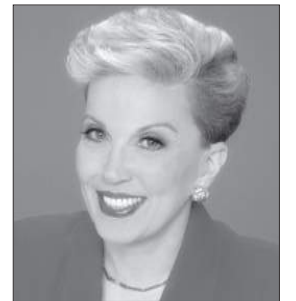
HONG KONG (AP)—Ken Hirai somberly expressed solidarity with fellow Japanese suffering from the March earthquake and tsunami as he promoted his new album in Hong Kong on Thursday. Dressed in a tweed-patterned three-piece suit and sporting a spiky blonde hairdo, the 39-year-old pop star performed two songs from his new record and his hit "Gently Close Your Eyes" at a suburban Hong Kong mall late Thursday. Fans besieged the ground floor area where Hirai performed and others peeked down from higher floors. After the brief set, Hirai quickly turned to Japan's recent natural disaster. He had been wrapping up his new release, "Japanese Singer," when the twin disasters struck. "We shouldn't give up. This is a very tough time for Japan. I hope we can get through this situation soon and see a better day," said

Union sues 'Spider-Man' on behalf of Julie Taymor

NEW YORK (AP)—The union that represents theater directors is seeking any royalties owed Julie Taymor, the original director of "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark." The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society filed an arbitration claim on Thursday against the show's producers, saying they had "failed to pay to Ms. Taymor any royalties for the run of the production." Taymor, who had been the director and co-book writer, was fired from the \$70 million musical in March after years of delays, accidents and critical backlash. Michael Cohl, one of the show's lead producers, acknowledged this week that his team was still trying to resolve financial disputes as a result of having to rework the musical. The rebooted show is scheduled to open Tuesday.

Man's good buddy objects to romance with his sister

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Kyle" and I have been good buddies for 10 years. The problem is I'm crazy about his younger sister. She and I have been talking over the last few months. Kyle knew we were talking in the beginning, and he told her to stay away from his friends. I think I understand his reasons, and I tried to talk to him on my own.

Kyle said he doesn't want to deal with me calling him eventually about problems that may arise between me and his sister.

Now when I hang out with her we have to be secretive. I would like to be open about being with this awesome girl. Can you please help me?

JOHN IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR JOHN: Kyle's reason for not wanting his sister to involve herself with any of his friends is a selfish one. He is not his sister's keeper. Her parents are. If you like her, find out from them if it's OK to hang out with her. But stop sneaking around because it's childish and reflects badly on both of you. And if there are any problems, refrain from taking them to Kyle.

DEAR ABBY: I grew up disliking a lot of things about my mother, but the main thing was how she treated my father. I still don't like it.

Now I realize I have started treating my husband the same way sometimes. He says it doesn't bother him and everything is fine in our marriage, but I lie awake at night worried about how I'm treating him. Situations come up, and before I can stop myself, I say something I wish I hadn't. One of my husband's friends noticed it and mentioned it.

I married a wonderful man, and I don't want to put him through what my dad endured. What can I do?

SEEING A PATTERN

DEAR SEEING: It's not unusual for children to model the behavior of their parents, even when the example isn't a good one. You will need to learn to self-censor before you open your mouth in stressful situations. One way to do it is, before snapping, ask yourself, "Is this true? Is it helpful? Is it kind?" However, learning the tools to create new patterns of behavior isn't easy—and you may need the help of a licensed counselor in order to overcome the patterns of a lifetime.

DEAR ABBY: Every weekend my husband goes to all the yard sales and estate sales in our area. He brings home stuff he considers treasures, but I'm sure even the trash collectors wouldn't pick it up.

He is obsessed with his hobby and doesn't realize he is turning our beautiful home into a trash storage warehouse. I tried talking to him, but he says he'll do as he pleases. Abby, I'm writing to you as my last resort. I am desperate for any advice you can give me.

SECONDHAND ROSE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR ROSE: Your husband has been seduced by the "thrill of the hunt" and is responding to primitive impulses passed down from our long ago ancestors. Women have it too — ask anyone who has lost track of time during a department store sale and bought more than she set out for.

Try this: Go with him to the yard and estate sales, so you both can agree to buy or reject a "treasure" before it becomes a purchase. While this may not put an end to your problem, it may curb your husband's impulse buying—a little.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

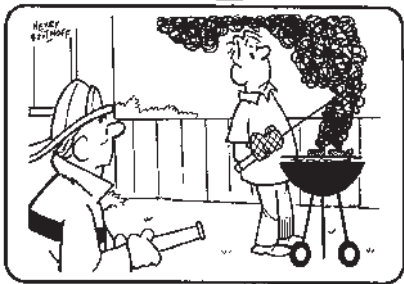
'Apes' actress Estella Warren with 4 counts in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles prosecutors have charged former model and actress Estella Warren with four misdemeanors, including hit and run, stemming from a recent arrest. The "Planet of the Apes" actress is also facing drunken driving, resisting arrest and battery on a peace officer counts. She is due in court on June 17 for arraignment. City Attorney spokesman Frank Mateljan says Warren refused a breathalyzer test when she was arrested early May 24 after crashing into three parked cars and then tussling with police. Mateljan says the 40-year-old was also convicted of driving under the influence in 2007. An email to Warren's manager was not immediately returned. She starred opposite Mark Wahlberg in Tim Burton's 2001 version of "Planet of the Apes."

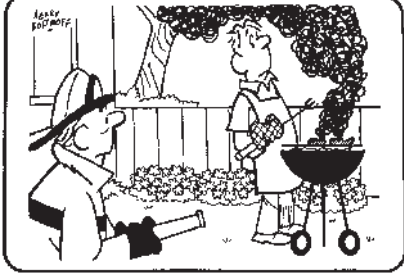
India's most prominent painter, M.F. Husain, dies

NEW DELHI (AP)—M.F. Husain, a former movie billboard artist who rose to become India's most sought-after painter before going into self-imposed exile during an uproar over nude images of Hindu icons, died Thursday. He was 95. CNN-IBN TV channel quoted a friend, Arun Vadehra, as saying that Husain, often described as India's Picasso, died at the Royal Brompton hospital in London. His lawyer, Akhil Sibal, confirmed the death to The Associated Press. Husain had lived in Dubai since 2006 after receiving death threats from Hindu hard-liners in India for a nude painting of a woman shaped like India's map, often depicted as "Mother India" in popular arts, folklore and literature. A nude of Hindu goddess Saraswati also angered the hard-liners. No details of the cause of his death were immediately known.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



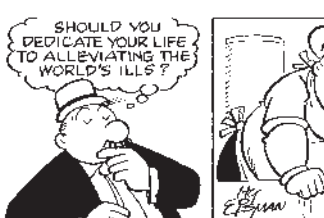
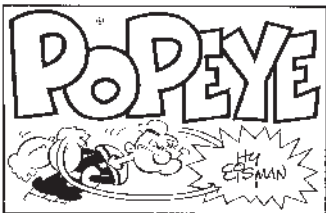
Differences: 1. Flowers added along fence. 2. Gloves are added. 3. Man's hat is different. 4. Tree has been black. 5. Woman's hat is different. 6. Fork is shorter.

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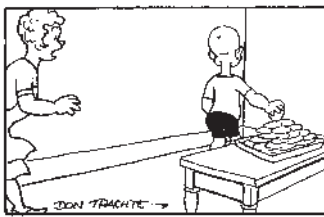
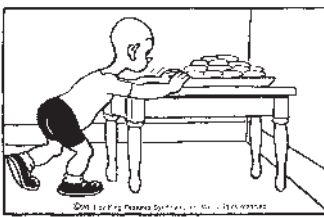
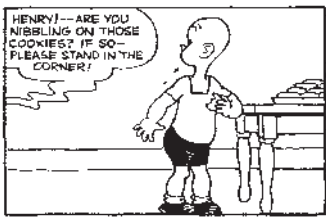
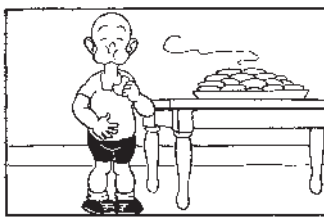
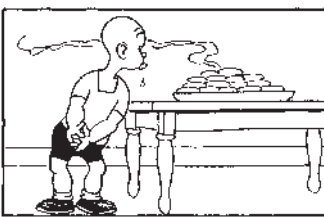
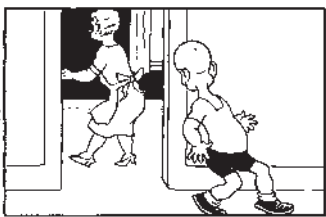
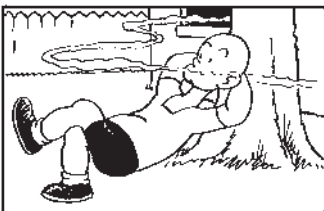
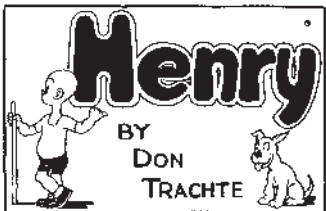
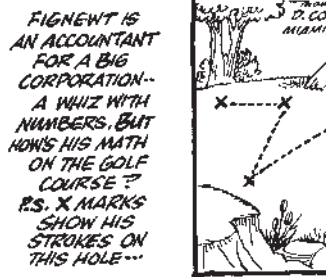
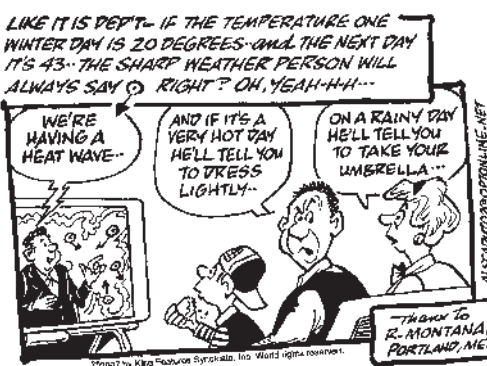
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto



Super Crossword

M&M'S

ACROSS

- 1 It may be tipped
- 4 W.C. Fields quote?
- 7 Poisonous plant
- 12 Social groups
- 18 Palindromic name
- 19 Important numero
- 20 Ages
- 22 Lama or imam
- 23 Singer Shannon
- 24 CEO, e.g.
- 25 Silent performer
- 27 Like Donne's poetry
- 30 Aquatic mammal
- 31 Slight
- 32 Zombie ingredient
- 33 Memphis deity
- 36 Obligation
- 39 Famed anthropologist
- 44 — fin
- 48 Scand. nation
- 49 Summarize
- 50 Computer acronym
- 52 Kitchen utensils
- 54 — one's time (waits)
- 57 Weber's —

Freischutz"

- 58 '98 home run king
- 60 Praise
- 62 Female goat
- 64 "O Sole —"
- 65 Sour fruit
- 66 Like some watches
- 68 Bradley or Epps
- 70 "Heat and —" ('83 film)
- 73 Writer Rand
- 74 Education pioneer
- 78 Woods' grp.
- 81 Indication
- 82 Wordsworth works
- 83 Magazine employee
- 86 Air bear?
- 88 — Gatos, CA
- 90 MA hours
- 91 Winter wear
- 93 Bearded bandleader
- 97 Lamb's dam
- 100 Wear away
- 101 Illinois city
- 102 Financial abbr.
- 103 What trumpets do
- 105 Diarist
- 106 Homeric combatants
- 108 5th Dimension member
- 112 Farmer's

place

- 114 Yemeni city
- 115 Bond rating
- 116 Lhasa —
- 120 Ocean vessel
- 123 Glass' — on the Beach
- 128 "Full Metal Jacket" star
- 133 Team
- 134 Humorous George
- 135 Babbled
- 136 Mame, for one
- 137 Consumed a knish
- 138 Gender
- 139 Lady of Spain
- 140 Moshe of Israel
- 141 Contemporary
- 142 Use a shuttle

12 Down

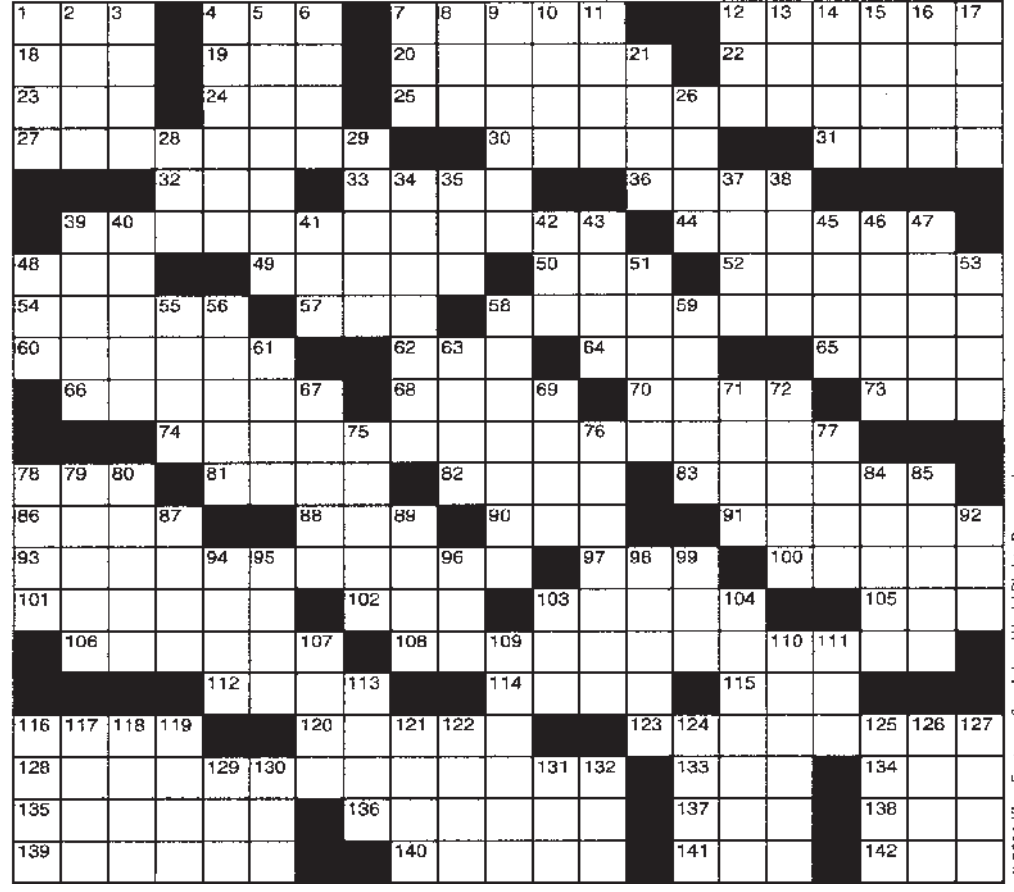
- 11 Atkins or Huntley
- 12 Calculating person?
- 13 O'Hare info
- 14 Incites
- 15 Rock hound?
- 16 Jacob's twin
- 17 Pencil piece
- 21 "Ethan Frome"
- 26 Eloquent equine
- 28 Rink legend
- 29 Caroline, to Ted
- 34 Celebrity
- 35 Little devil
- 37 Comice kin
- 38 Math subject
- 39 Shearer of "The Red Shoes"
- 40 "As You Like It" setting
- 41 Silly Skelton
- 42 Periodontists' org.
- 43 Campus digs
- 45 Whips up a waistcoat
- 46 Spanish city
- 47 Croce's Mr. Brown
- 48 Leno's network
- 51 Loses control

53 Noted

- 55 Dutch treat?
- 56 Patriot
- 58 Rumble
- 59 Animal that roared?
- 61 Singer Amos
- 63 Melville novel
- 67 Tenor
- 69 Hwys.
- 71 Fountain order
- 72 Threefold
- 75 "I'm — Cowhand" ('36 song)
- 76 Getty or Parsons
- 77 "Take — leave it!"
- 78 Heart, e.g.
- 79 "Peer Gynt"
- 80 "Maitre Falcon"
- 84 Maine town
- 85 Chatter box?
- 87 Square measure
- 89 Actor Pickens
- 92 Berry or Olin
- 94 Sped
- 95 Construct
- 96 Bartok or Peron
- 98 One of the

Osmonds

- 99 Directional suffix
- 103 Command
- 104 Stem
- 107 "— Hand" ('81 hit)
- 109 One in a million
- 110 Salted snack
- 111 Purrfect pet?
- 113 South American capital
- 116 Current amount
- 117 Unwind a rind
- 118 Mikita of hockey
- 119 Conductor Klemperer
- 121 Stentorian
- 122 Writer O'Brien
- 124 Neighbor of Pakistan
- 125 — Haven, CT
- 126 Brainstorm
- 127 Casanova's cry?
- 129 "— Alibi" ('89 film)
- 130 Author LeShan
- 131 Nicole on "Fame"
- 132 Browning's bedtime?



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- comet (which was later named after him) became visible to observers on Earth every 75 years or so?
5. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Cyprus?
6. HISTORY: Where did the Glorious Revolution of 1688 take place?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What did George Washington do for a living as a young man?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: On which continent did the peanut originate?
9. ANATOMY: To what system of the human body does the gall bladder belong?
10. ARCHITECTURE: Who designed St. Paul's Cathedral of London?

Saturday's Answers



1. LITERATURE: "Ten Days That Shook the World" is an account of what event in history?
2. FASHION: What is an ascot?
3. LANGUAGE: Where might a lunule be found on the human body?
4. ASTRONOMY: When did Edmund Halley determine that a

5. Nicotiana
4. 1705
3. The crescent-shaped white mark at the base of the fingernail or toenail
9. Digestive
8. South America
7. Surveyor
6. England
1. Russian Revolution

Answers

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Pastimes
By Bill Waterson
WHATZIT Solution: Thick as thieves

Garfield®
By Jim Davis
OH, MAN... WHO MAKES UP ALL THESE RULES?

Ivin and Hobbes
By John Deering
THERE'S A SHOWN GOON RUNNING LOOSE! IF I WERE YOU, I WOULD STAY AROUND. THEY COULD GET IF

Adam@home
OKAY, BUDDY, WE'RE GOING TO A TUMBLING CLASS. HERE'S YOUR CARD

CROSSWORD
ACROSS
1 Sh...

Alomar, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame
36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 32

Minor wins doubles in Australia
By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roselyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament. Minor teamed up with fellow Pacific Islands team member Amanda Korinih... Curtis-McDonald... Wednesday...

Sablán, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts
By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
EDITOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Weather Channel predicted near-freezing weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in. What D.C. got was a blindingly sunny day, with hardly a cloud to mar the cobalt blue sky. In fact, it was chillier inside the Capitol, when outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was preparing to hand over the gavel to the new speaker, John Boehner (R-Ohio). When Pelosi began enumerating the accomplishments of the 111th Congress under her leadership, the frosty silence emanating from the Republican side of the House was enough to cause icicles to form on the ceiling. The GOP, after all, campaigned—and won—on a platform to undo most of what the Democrats led 111th Congress accomplished. Pelosi's farewell speech was punctuated by applause some 19 times before she was only unanimously elected to the House of Representatives.

BURGLARS
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INSIDE
Capsized Boat
Days after it capsized behind the Tanapag Pavilion, a yacht owned by Mariana Resort & Spa was finally pulled ashore.
Local...Page 8

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
EDITOR
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Kibili: It's going to take over the reins
House of Representatives
Monday, Sablan will call

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Mavs overcome James' triple-double, lead 3-2



DALLAS (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki thrust both arms in the air, a sea of blue screaming around him and the Dallas Mavericks finally ahead in these ultra-close NBA finals.

Now it really is “now or never” for LeBron James and the Miami Heat.

Nowitzki scored 29 points, driving for the go-ahead dunk with 2:45 remaining, and the Mavericks beat the Heat 112-103 on Thursday night to take a 3-2 lead.

Five years after going up 2-0 on the Heat, the Mavs finally got that elusive third victory, and can wrap up their first championship in Game 6 at Miami on Sunday night.

“We didn’t want to go to Miami and give them basically two shots to close us out. So we kept plugging there in the fourth. So definitely a big win for us,” Nowitzki said. “And now we have to go down there and basically approach Sunday’s game as Game 7.”

James, who called this game “now or never,” responded from his worst playoff performance with 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, and Dwyane Wade battled through a sore left hip after a first-quarter collision to finish with 23 points.

“I could have made a couple of more plays for my team,” James said. “But at the end of the day, all it’s about is a win or a loss. Triple-double means absolutely nothing in a loss. So we will be better in Game 6 on Sunday.”

Chris Bosh had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Heat, who get the final two games at home with history against them as they try to win a title in their first season together: In the 26 previous finals that were tied 2-2, the Game 5 winner won 19 of them.

“We fought hard all season for home-court advantage. We’re down 3-2,” Bosh said. “We protect home court, we win the series, so we just have to keep that in mind.”

The Mavs shot 60 percent



AP
Dallas Mavericks' Jason Terry (31) and Dirk Nowitzki (41) celebrate after Game 5 of the NBA Finals basketball game against the Miami Heat Thursday, June 9, 2011, in Dallas.

through three quarters, briefly gave up the lead in the fourth, then outscored Miami 17-4 in the final 4:23, controlling the final few minutes just as they had in thrilling comebacks in Games 2 and 4.

Dallas shot 56.5 percent from the field, including 13 of 19 (68 percent) from 3-point range.

“We made more shots,” Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. “We did a lot of good things defensively, which led to good offense. ... You never know when the games are going to go that way. The thing we’ve got to do is we’ve got to make sure our defense is consistent.”

Terry scored 21 points and J.J. Barea had 17 for the Mavs, who insisted at some point their shots would start falling even against the Heat’s stingy defense. Jason Kidd and Tyson Chandler both finished with 13 points.

“We are getting the same looks we knew we would get,”

Terry said. “After Games 1 and 2, you watch it on film, you see it and then you realize you’re going to have the opportunities. I said to myself, I said to my teammates, we’re not going to continue to miss those open shots that we’re getting.”

Their offense was simply too good, despite a good bounce-back for James.

James scored eight points, going just 3 of 11 in Game 4, the first time in 90 postseason games he didn’t hit double figures. Trying to pump himself during a rough first finals in Miami in which he’s been accused of everything from “shrinking” to “checking out” in the fourth quarters, he wrote “Now or Never!!” on his Twitter page early Thursday morning, later calling this the biggest game of his career.

But they feel the same urgency in Dallas, where the slogan “The Time is Now” is printed on those blue T-shirts that sur-

round the court, and where the Mavs are loaded with 30-some-things—late 30s, in Kidd’s case—who could be on their last shot at an NBA title.

Nowitzki said early Thursday he felt “great,” having shaken the fever that rose to 101 degrees in Game 4. This time, the health concern was Wade, who banged his hip in the first quarter and appeared to be limping at various points from there.

“I don’t talk about injuries,” Wade said. “It was unfortunate I had to leave the game, but I came back and finished it.”

He remained in the locker room to start the second half, coming back onto the court about the midway point of the period. By then, the Mavs seemed in too good a groove to be cooled off no matter who Miami had out there.

A disgusted Heat coach Erik Spoelstra was already walking onto the court to call time by the

time Chandler went up to dunk after catching the ball all alone under the basket, giving Dallas a nine-point lead that matched its largest of the series. Miami stormed into the lead midway through the fourth with a 9-0 run, all layups, dunks and free throws until Wade’s 3-pointer made it 99-95 with 4:38 to play.

The Mavs tied it at 100 on Terry’s 3-pointer with 3:23 left, and after James missed, Nowitzki drove for a baseline dunk and a 102-100 lead. James was called for an offensive foul and missed a 3-pointer on Miami’s next two possessions before Kidd drilled a 3-pointer to make it 105-100, sending the crowd into a delirious chant of “Beat the Heat! Beat the Heat!”

The teams were at the same point as their 2006 matchup after four games, but that one was already in the midst of a massive swing by then. Miami won the final four games behind

Wade, the MVP of that series.

This one has been developing into one of the closest finals the NBA has ever seen. Games 2-4 were decided by three points or fewer. That hadn’t happened in the championship round since 1948, according to STATS, LLC, when the Baltimore Bullets and Philadelphia Warriors played Games 2-4 within a three-point margin during the Basketball Association of America finals, a year before that league merged with the National Basketball League to become the NBA.

The first four games were determined by 15 total points, the fewest since a 12-game difference between the Celtics and Lakers in the 1969 finals.

And all eyes were on James, just as they have been since he bolted Cleveland for a better shot at a championship in Miami.

He vowed to be more aggressive after his puzzling Game 4. He caught the ball in the post more frequently, but his jumper was still off for much of the game.

James threw up an airball with his left hand on his first shot, and when he did finally score, the Mavs quickly came back with six straight points for an early 13-6 lead, a promising start for a team that had been playing from behind nearly all series.

Wade walked gingerly to the locker room with a left hip contusion with about 3 minutes left in the period after colliding with Mavs reserve Brian Cardinal on a drive to the basket, and didn’t return to the bench until more than 3 minutes into the second.

James had a basket inside that gave Miami a six-point lead with 4:26 left in the half, but Dallas closed with a 14-5 push, taking a 60-57 edge to the locker room after Nowitzki’s jumper with 6.1 seconds remaining. The Mavs shot 12 of 17 in the quarter, and after not reaching 30 points in any period through four games, hit that number in each of the first two quarters of Game 5.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—David Mathis matched his best round ever on the PGA Tour, shooting a 5-under 65 Thursday to grab the opening round lead at the St. Jude Classic.

Mathis jumped to the top of the leaderboard late in the day, finishing with six birdies and one late bogey. He is back on the PGA Tour for a second time thanks to finishing 13th on the Nationwide Tour money list last year.

Robert Karlsson, who lost a four-hole playoff here a year ago, shot a 66 and was tied with John Merrick, Kris Blanks, Kevin Kisner and Colt Knost.

Keegan Bradley and Fabian Gomez each had 67s. Bradley is among the few here who could play their way into the

Mathis' 65 gives him first-round lead in Memphis

U.S. Open by winning at the TPC Southwind for a second tour victory since the last Open. Bradley won the Byron Nelson Championship two weeks ago.

Retief Goosen and Boo Weekley were among a group with 68s. Defending champion Lee Westwood opened with a 69.

The 37-year-old Mathis has been playing golf since turning pro in 1997 after leaving Campbell University. He started playing mini tours and was on the Canadian tour before switching to the Nationwide circuit. He first joined the PGA Tour in 2009 when he posted a pair of top-25 finishes, including a tie for 23rd in Memphis.

But he wound up back on the Nationwide Tour last year. St. Jude, sponsored by FedEx, is his 14th event on the PGA Tour this year with five missed cuts.

The native of Winston-Salem, N.C., credited a visit with his coach Patrick Kelley this week for helping straighten out his line when putting. He noticed the difference almost immediately when he started on the back nine and rolled in a 9-footer to save par.

Then he added a birdie putt on the par-3 No. 11 from just inside 19 feet, plus 8-footers for

birdies on Nos. 13 and 16. He had a 15-footer for birdie on No. 2 from a fairway bunker to join the pack tied at 4 under.

Mathis had the lead to himself when he hit a wedge on the par-5 No. 3 to within 13 feet, then made another birdie. He padded his advantage with a four-footer on No. 5 for his sixth birdie.

His lone bogey came on No. 8, when he three-putted from within 8 feet.

Karlsson started off the front nine with three birdies on his first six holes. But the Swede

hit his tee shot on the par-4 No. 13 into a fairway bunker and wound up bogeying the hole to fall back to 2 under.

He got the stroke back with a birdie on the par-3 No. 14, rolling in from 18 feet. He also had a 19-footer for birdie on No. 15, but came up a couple feet short.

Merrick has made six of eight cuts this year, with his best finish a tie for 11th at Puerto Rico. He took advantage of an early tee time to take the early clubhouse lead.

He said the key Thursday was hitting shots closer to the hole.

“It’s definitely been something that’s been hurting me,” he said. “I’ve been hitting greens

but not really getting it close. Today I hit some good shots and had some decent looks at birdies that were inside 10 feet.”

Kisner is a rookie in his 13th event on tour this season. He started this tournament with only his fourth round in the 60s this year, taking advantage of a morning tee time with little wind. The South Carolina native who went to the University of Georgia hasn’t finished better than a tie for 39th, and Kisner said his biggest challenge is learning the courses.

“The courses are much more difficult than the Nationwide,” he said. “You really have to know where you’re going to miss it and places to be. It’s all just part of learning. It’s why they call you a rookie.”



Ortiz breaks loose after being hit, Boston win



NEW YORK (AP)—David Ortiz started and finished a seven-run burst in the seventh inning that led the Boston Red Sox over the New York Yankees 8-3 in a rain-delayed game that ended at early Friday.

After a wait of almost 3 1/2 hours, Josh Beckett (5-2) out-pitched CC Sabathia (7-4) for the third time this season. Boston outscored New York 25-13 in its second three-game sweep at Yankee Stadium in a month.

Only a few thousand fans were left when Boston wrapped up its sixth win in a row overall and beat the Yankees for the seventh straight time. The Red Sox are 8-1 against their long-time rivals this year.

A storm that brought lightning bolts over the Bronx delayed the start for 3 hours, 27 minutes.

Hit in the right thigh by Sabathia's fastball in the third inning, Ortiz got more than even a little later. The Red Sox trailed 2-0 when he singled off Sabathia to start the seventh, and Ortiz's two-run double off David Robertson capped the big rally.

Curtis Granderson hit a two-run homer, his 18th, for New York in the first inning.

New York's Derek Jeter singled for his 2,990th career hit.

Tigers 4, Mariners 1

At Detroit, Alex Avila tripled twice and Justin Verlander pitched eight strong innings as Detroit downed Seattle.

Verlander (7-3) struck out a season-best 10 while allowing one run on five hits. He's 5-0 in his last seven starts with a 2.14 ERA. Jose Valverde pitched the ninth for his 16th save in 16 tries.

Seattle starter Doug Fister (3-7) dropped to 1-4 since May 1, giving up four runs on seven hits and two walks in eight innings. He's 1-12 in 19 career starts against AL Central teams.

Detroit had a four-run fifth. Jhonny Peralta singled and scored on Avila's second triple. With two out, Don Kelly's single made it 2-1, and Brennan Boesch followed with his eighth homer of the season.

Twins 5, Rangers 4

At Minneapolis, Alexi Casilla hit a single to left field to drive in the winning run with two outs in the ninth for Minnesota on a windy, chilly night at Target Field.

Luke Hughes led off the ninth with a double off Mark Lowe (1-0) that a fan picked up before the Rangers could play it. They complained, to no avail.

Rangers starter Derek Holland gave up a solo shot in the second inning to Delmon Young and a three-run homer to Michael Cuddyer in the fifth.

Josh Hamilton and Nelson Cruz hit long homers for Texas.

White Sox 9, Athletics 4

At Chicago, Adam Dunn and Paul Konerko hit two-run homers and Chicago spoiled Oakland interim manager Bob Melvin's debut, handing the Athletics



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz reacts after being hit by a pitch during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees Thursday, June 9, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

their 10th straight loss.

Melvin replaced Bob Geren earlier in the day.

Mark Buehrle (6-4) threw seven strong innings and improved to 5-1 with a 3.00 ERA in his last seven starts. He allowed seven hits and three runs.

Trevor Cahill (6-4) lasted just 2 2-3 innings, his shortest out-ing of the season.

Royals 3, Blue Jays 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Jeff Francoeur drove in two runs to help Luke Hochevar win for the first time in seven starts as Kansas City survived Joakim Soria's shaky ninth to beat Toronto.

Soria, reclaiming the closer role he lost May 30 after back-to-back blown saves, loaded the bases in the ninth but got his eighth save in 13 opportunities.

Hochevar (4-6) allowed two runs in the fourth but nothing else in seven innings. Ricky Romero (5-6) pitched an eight-inning complete game for Toronto.

Cubs 4, Phillies 3

At Philadelphia, Geovany Soto hit a game-leveling homer off Ryan Madson with one out in the ninth inning and Tyler Colvin scored from second base on a throwing error in the 11th

as the Chicago Cubs edged the Philadelphia Phillies.

Colvin's go-ahead homer in the ninth was overturned by umpires after replays showed a fan wearing a Phillies T-shirt reached over the fence and interfered with the ball.

But the Cubs still won their second straight after losing eight in a row.

Strong wind and heavy rain stopped the game for 1 hour, 17 minutes in the bottom of the third. Neither starter returned when play resumed, and the teams used 12 relievers.

Philadelphia's Jimmy Rollins hit a three-run homer in the second.

Braves 3, Marlins 2

At Miami, Jair Jurrjens threw seven solid innings and drove in a run as Atlanta handed Florida its eighth straight loss.

Alex Gonzalez also drove in a run with a double to help the Braves complete a three-game sweep at Sun Life Stadium for the first time since May 2-4, 1995. The Marlins' eight-game losing streak is their longest skid since also dropping eight in a row Aug. 15-22, 2007.

Mike Stanton homered off Jurrjens in the seventh.

Diamondbacks 2, Pirates 0

At Pittsburgh, Chris Young hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning and four Arizona pitchers combined for a five-hit shutout as the Diamondbacks beat Pittsburgh to snap a three-game losing streak.

Young pulled a 2-0 pitch from Chris Resop (2-2) down the left-field line just inside the foul pole for his 12th homer of the season. Reliever Micah Owings (2-0) legged out a one-out infield single before Young's hit.

Arizona rookie starter Josh Collmenter pitched five-plus innings. Joe Patterson, Owings and David Hernandez finished up the Diamondbacks' sixth shutout of the season.

Mets 4, Brewers 1

At Milwaukee, Jonathon Niese pitched effectively into the eighth as New York beat Milwaukee to take two of three games against the best home team in the majors.

Niese (5-5) retired the first 11 hitters and allowed only an RBI double to Prince Fielder in the fourth and singles in the seventh and eighth. Niese matched a career high with eight strikeouts.

Francisco Rodriguez got the final four outs for his 18th save.

Cardinals 9, Astros 2

At Houston, Lance Berkman broke a tie with an RBI single and pinch-hitter Daniel Descalso had a two-run double as St. Louis beat Houston with a five-run sixth inning.

Berkman, the former Astro who hit a solo homer to break up Bud Norris' no-hit bid in the seventh inning in the Cardinals' 4-1 loss Wednesday night, snapped a 1-1 tie with a single off the scoreboard in left after Jon Jay singled and Albert Pujols drew a walk off J.A. Happ (3-8).

Berkman added his 15th homer in the ninth. Ryan Theriot also homered for St. Louis.

Houston's Hunter Pence had two hits to extend his hitting streak to 20 games.

Reds 3, Giants 0

At San Francisco, Johnny Cueto pitched seven scoreless innings, and Jonny Gomes had three hits and an RBI to lead Cincinnati past San Francisco.

Cueto (3-2) allowed just four hits and struck out eight—including the side in order in the third inning—in a dominating performance that ended a four-start winless streak.

Nick Masset pitched a scoreless eighth, and Francisco Cordero finished the four-hitter for his 12th save in 14 chances as the Reds opened their seven-game West Coast swing.

Rockies 9, Dodgers 7

At Denver, Troy Tulowitzki drove in four runs, including a leveling two-run single in Colorado's five-run seventh inning as Colorado rallied to beat Los Angeles.

Tulowitzki delivered against Mike MacDougal and pinch-hitter Jason Giambi drew a bases-loaded walk to break the 7-7 tie as the Rockies sent 11 batters to the plate in the seventh.

Behind Matt Kemp's power surge—he hit his NL-leading 18th homer, drove in three runs and came a single short of his first career cycle—the Dodgers built leads of 4-0 and 7-3.

Padres 7, Nationals 3

At San Diego, Chase Headley hit a two-run homer, and Anthony Rizzo had a triple and scored a run in his big league debut as San Diego downed Washington.

Rizzo, one of three prospects obtained from Boston for All-Star Adrian Gonzalez in December, was called up earlier in the day from Tucson. He started at first base and batted seventh, hitting a triple off the fence in center in his second at-bat and scoring on Chris Denorfia's infield single. Rizzo went 1 for 2 with two walks.

Livan Hernandez (3-8) tied for the major league lead with his eighth loss. He is 0-6 in his last eight starts overall and 0-6 in his eight road starts. He's also 0-6 in eight career starts at Petco Park.

Nationals pinch-hitter Wilson Ramos homered with two outs in the ninth.

All eyes on Pryor as he tries for the NFL



COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—

The next step may be the most important one for former Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor.

Done with college football and through with talking to the NCAA, now he'll have to convince NFL teams he can fully realize the potential that he has shown since he was a high school quarterback in Pennsylvania.

Pryor attorney Larry James said Thursday that the QB turned down a chance to play in the Canadian Football League and is now focusing his energies on being selected by an NFL team later this summer.

"He's definitely looking at the supplemental draft," James said.

There are risks and rewards aplenty, both for Pryor and any team considering taking him.

"Some time ago I put up a top-100 list (for the 2012 draft) and I had Pryor right around 100 on that list," said Gil Brandt, an NFL draft analyst and former general manager of the Dallas Cowboys. "And that was before all of this came to fruition."

The "all of this" Brandt was referring to is the smothering rubble at Ohio State: coach Jim Tressel's forced resignation, an ongoing and all-encompassing NCAA probe and, on Tuesday night, Pryor's announcement that he wouldn't return to school and play his senior season.

Pryor, considered the nation's No. 1 quarterback recruit when he signed with Ohio State in 2008, had already been suspended for the first five games of the 2011 season for trading autographs and memorabilia for cash and discounted tattoos. The NCAA also is looking into the cars Pryor has owned or was loaned while at Ohio State. Investigators left campus last week, Ohio State President Gordon Gee says, but the probe will continue ahead of an Aug. 12 meeting between OSU officials and the NCAA's committee on infractions.

The NCAA will get no more answers from Pryor.

James said Thursday that, since Pryor is no longer a student, he felt no compunction to speak with investigators anymore.

"They're not going to give him or any other student-athlete any due process rights to speak of, so he's moved on," James said.

The Saskatchewan Roughriders, who held Pryor's Canadian Football League negotiating rights, made a play for him Wednesday night. The CFL game is played on a field both longer and wider than the NFL's, meaning a mobile quarterback is a precious commodity.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	26	.581	—
New York	33	27	.550	2
Tampa Bay	33	29	.532	3
Toronto	32	31	.508	4 1/2
Baltimore	29	31	.483	6

Central Division

Cleveland	34	26	.567	—
Detroit	34	28	.548	1
Chicago	31	34	.477	5 1/2
Kansas City	27	36	.429	8 1/2
Minnesota	24	38	.387	11

West Division

Texas	35	29	.547	—
Seattle	32	31	.508	2 1/2
Los Angeles	30	34	.469	5
Oakland	27	37	.422	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	37	26	.587	—
Atlanta	35	28	.556	2
Florida	31	30	.508	5
New York	30	32	.484	6 1/2
Washington	27	36	.429	10

Central Division

St. Louis	38	26	.594	—
Milwaukee	35	28	.556	2 1/2
Cincinnati	33	31	.516	5
Pittsburgh	30	31	.492	6 1/2
Chicago	25	36	.410	11 1/2
Houston	24	39	.381	13 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	35	28	.556	—
Arizona	34	29	.540	1
Colorado	30	32	.484	4 1/2
Los Angeles	29	35	.453	6 1/2
San Diego	29	35	.453	6 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Arizona 2, Pittsburgh 0
Chicago Cubs 4, Philadelphia 3, 11 innings
Atlanta 3, Florida 2
St. Louis 9, Houston 2
N.Y. Mets 4, Milwaukee 1
Colorado 9, L.A. Dodgers 7
San Diego 7, Washington 3
Cincinnati 3, San Francisco 0
Kansas City 3, Toronto 2
Boston 8, N.Y. Yankees 3
Detroit 4, Seattle 1
Chicago White Sox 9, Oakland 4
Minnesota 5, Texas 4

ST. JUDE CLASSIC SCORES

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)—Scores Thursday from the \$5.6-million PGA St. Jude Classic at the par-70 (35-35), 7,239-meter TPC Southwind course. (a-amateur)

FIRST ROUND

David Mathis	33-32-65
John Merrick	34-32-66
Kris Blanks	34-32-66
Kevin Kisner	33-33-66
Robert Karlsson	32-34-66
Colt Knost	33-33-66
Keegan Bradley	34-33-67
Fabian Gomez	33-34-67
Jeff Quinney	34-34-68
Len Mattiace	36-32-68
Retief Goosen	35-33-68
Heath Slocum	36-32-68
Boo Weekley	34-34-68
Marco Dawson	33-35-68
Tag Ridings	35-33-68
Shaun Micheel	33-35-68
Kent Jones	35-33-68
Scott Gutschewski	33-35-68
Martin Piller	37-31-68
John Senden	32-37-69
John Daly	34-35-69
Camilo Villegas	32-37-69
Brendan Steele	35-34-69
Carl Pettersson	35-34-69
Steve Marino	37-32-69
Jimmy Walker	35-34-69
Aron Price	36-33-69
David Hearn	37-32-69
Lee Westwood	36-33-69
Stephen Ames	34-35-69
Scott Stallings	35-34-69
a-Bobby Hudson	33-36-69
Michael Bradley	37-33-70
Robert Allenby	35-35-70
Troy Matteson	37-33-70
John Rollins	36-34-70
Dicky Pride	35-35-70
Steve Flesch	31-39-70
John Mallinger	36-34-70
Ryuji Imada	37-33-70
Michael Letzig	36-34-70

Will Strickler	35-35-70
Zack Miller	34-36-70
George McNeill	34-36-70
Craig Barlow	35-35-70
Tom Pernice, Jr.	35-35-70
Bryce Molder	34-36-70
Padraig Harrington	36-34-70
Robert Garrigus	34-36-70
Y.E. Yang	35-35-70
Cameron Percy	36-34-70
Sunghoon Kang	35-35-70
Matt McQuillan	34-36-70
Fredrik Jacobson	35-36-71
Harrison Frazar	34-37-71
Garrett Willis	34-37-71
Frank Lickliter II	36-35-71
Woody Austin	33-38-71
Nick O'Hern	36-35-71
Brian Gay	35-36-71
Brendon de Jonge	35-36-71
Bob Estes	33-38-71
Ben Curtis	34-37-71
Paul Stankowski	31-40-71
Brian Davis	36-35-71
Chris Tidland	36-35-71
Billy Horschel	35-36-71
Michael Putnam	36-35-71
Cameron Tringale	34-37-71
Fran Quinn	35-36-71
Alexandre Rocha	37-34-71
Chris Couch	34-37-71
Shane Bertsch	35-36-71
Brandt Snedeker	34-37-71
Jonathan Byrd	36-35-71
Geoff Ogilvy	35-36-71
Will MacKenzie	37-34-71
Brett Quigley	35-36-71
Scott Piercy	36-35-71
Patrick Reed	36-35-71
Alex Cejka	38-34-72
Todd Hamilton	37-35-72
Spencer Levin	36-36-72
D.J. Brigman	37-35-72
Chris Baryla	34-38-72
Jim Renner	36-36-72
Daniel Summerhays	37-35-72
Bio Kim	34-38-72
Joseph Bramlett	35-37-72
Blake Adams	36-36-72
Greg Chalmers	36-36-72
Chris DiMarco	36-36-72
Jerry Kelly	37-35-72
Marc Turnesa	35-37-72
Mark Hensby	36-36-72
Chad Campbell	36-36-72
Rich Beem	35-37-72
Charles Howell III	38-34-72
Briny Baird	35-37-72
Ben Martin	33-39-72
Mike Small	37-35-72
Scott Gordon	35-37-72
Kevin Stadler	38-35-73
Zach Johnson	36-37-73
Ben Crane	36-37-73
Jhonattan Vegas	37-36-73
Graham DeLaet	33-40-73
Tim Herron	35-38-73
Jim Herman	36-37-73
Michael Thompson	35-38-73
Jason Bohn	35-38-73
Chad Collins	37-36-73
Carl Paulson	37-36-73
Kirk Triplett	36-37-73
Vance Veazey	36-37-73
Alex Aragon	37-36-73
Richard S. Johnson	37-37-74
Chez Reavie	39-35-74
Andrew McLardy	35-39-74
a-Anthony Paolucci	37-37-74
Steven Bowditch	36-38-74
Tom Gillis	37-37-74
Johnson Wagner	38-36-74
Cameron Beckman	37-37-74
D.J. Trahan	36-38-74
Bobby Gates	36-38-74
Justin Hicks	40-34-74
Nate Smith	36-38-74
William McGirt	40-34-74
James Driscoll	35-40-75
Rod Pampling	36-39-75
Anthony Kim	36-39-75
Robert Damron	37-38-75
Andres Gonzales	37-38-75
Scott McCarron	39-36-75
J.P. Hayes	38-37-75
David Toms	38-37-75
Joe Ogilvie	35-40-75
Billy Mayfair	39-36-75
Jarrod Lyle	36-39-75
Scott Verplank	38-38-76
Matt Weibring	41-35-76
Jason Gore	36-40-76
Sam Saunders	37-39-76
Clark Richardson	37-39-76
Lee Janzen	38-39-77
Joe Durant	35-42-77
a-Steve Lee	40-37-77
Sergio Garcia	41-37-78
Jeff Klauk	39-39-78
Michael Connell	38-41-79
Craig Bowden	39-40-79
Matt Bettencourt	42-38-80
Kip Henley	41-41-82

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IT&E Voyagers, Best Choice still atop standings



The IT&E Voyagers of Jonny's Bar & Grill and Best Choice of D'Pirates Bar & Grill remain frontrunners of their respective Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League divisions after the conclusion of last Tuesday's matchups.

IT&E Voyagers went head to head against the Obyan division leader Best Choice and soundly defeated them, 6-1, on the road to improve its win-loss card to 75-30.

Agingan's IT&E Incredibles fell to Jonny's Home Boyz, 3-4, in an away match, but still remained in second place with its 72-33 overall record. Home Boyz is tied with the Docomo Hustlers with identical slates of 70-35. The Hustlers shut out Obyan's VFW Post 3457 X-Tream, 7-0, at home.

Best Choice holds a 50-55 record, enough for a four-game edge in the six-team Obyan field. Second-ranked Fotten Palau (46-59), of USSP Peleliu Club, missed an opportunity to gain some ground and dropped



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shark Attack upset second-ranked Fotten Palau, 4-3, as the SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League resumed Tuesday night at Wild Bill's Bar & Grill.

its match to Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack, 3-4, on the road. Shark Attack improved in the standings and is tied for third place with X-Tream; both teams share 38-67 cards.

Meanwhile, USSP Turtles (37-68) bested D'Pirates Pirates (29-76), 5-2, in a battle of the

bottom feeders at home.

Agingan notables include one-time 8-ball sinkers Home Boyz's Mario Diola, IT&E Voyagers' Jojo Talibong, and Docomo Hustlers' Rowel Mariano, while IT&E Voyagers' Rolly Villanueva and Hustlers' Jerry Soriano both ran the rack for

their seventh time this season.

In Obyan play, X-Tream's George Lizardo sunk the 8-ball off the break for a second time, while teammate Chester Cuento ran the rack a division-best three times this season; seven other players pulled off the feat once. *(Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)*

SAPONG

From Page 28

prove my personal best time. I've been working with my coaches these past few months to improve my sprinting techniques. I would like to thank my coaches

CHELSEA

From Page 28

their interest in the sport.

"I asked one of the players which sport she enjoys. She said basketball. It's okay to play multiple sports, but if you want to be a good football player, you have to love the sport and focus on it," Santos, a former star player in Hong Kong and is now

and the NMA board members for giving me the opportunity to take part in this prestigious event," Sapong said.

Besides the 100m run, the world championship event will feature the girls' 200m, 400m, 800m, 1,500m, and

the technical director of Chelsea FC Soccer School.

Santos held a clinic for the girls U18 and women's players of the various local clubs also on Thursday afternoon and liked the attitude of the participants.

"They were very receptive and respectful and that's how players should act. It means they are interested to learn new things and trusted the coaches. Some even

told me it was their first time to learn these kinds of drills and they enjoyed them," Santos said.

"I wished we have more time to teach them because they need more clinics and coaches. With continuous training and guidance from trained coaches, I believe we will hear a lot of good news from CNMI football," the two-time Football of the Year awardee.

Santos and Tsui and techni-

cal director Luam Khen Koo concluded their series of clinics last night through a session with the coaches of the six clubs on Saipan. Today, the group will head to the TSL Sports Complex in Middle Road for the opening of the Saipan Soccer School and tomorrow it will cap its Saipan trip with a friendly game against selected players at the Oleai pitch.

MARLINS

From Page 28

Kingfishers, 6-5.

In the boys finals, the Marlins came up empty in the top of the first inning and Kingfishers took an early 5-0 lead in the bottom frame.

The Marlins then managed to get a couple of runs back in the bottom of the second, and after a quiet third, the Marlins knotted up the game at 5-all in the top of the fourth.

The Marlins then pressed on and took the lead, 6-5, in the top of the fifth. The Kingfishers threatened in the bottom frame, but the Marlins' defense held strong and both teams remained silent in the last two frames.

The Marlins are made up of sixth graders Bernard Adolfo, Donald Pangelinan, Jeffrey Dela Cruz, Jeffrey Castro, Cedric Ca-

macho, Verlance Secharmedal, Roque Dela Cruz, Wilson Nelson, Vincent Laniyu with fifth graders Angel and Jesse Dawe, Shawn Santos, Bradley Pangelinan, Khalid Islam, and Edward Reyes. The team is coached by Hellena Jebehn, Frank Arurang, Constancio Miday, and Maria Mettao.

In the girls game, the Lady Umangs took 5-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning.

Oleai threatened in the top of the third, but the Lady Umangs escaped the inning with the bases loaded.

Later in the bottom of the fourth, Lady Umangs' Veronian Babauta smashed a deep fly ball to the center field fence for an inside-the-park home run.

Then in the top of the fifth with one out, the Lady Turtles threatened again with ducks on the pond, but the Lady Umangs fended them off again with a diving

catch by leftfielder Alosia Kaipat and a nifty line drive snag at second base by Kayla Rosario.

From there, the Lady Umangs piled on four more runs in the sixth and forced the Lady Turtles 1-2-3 in its final stand.

The Lady Umangs is comprised of Babauta, Kaipat, Rosario, Anesta Davis, Angie Rejano, Vergina Imperial, Jonne Villagomez, Krissa DL Guerrero, Roca Kaisan, Nevies Babauta, Jenica Muna, Torina Tito, and Renita Fleming. Francis Mendiola, George Cruz, Joe Etipson, Jeremiah Benavente, and Lester Babauta coach the team.

Kagman's Jebehn was also the overall league coordinator of the EISO events this year.

"I'd like to thank John Terlaje and Frank Arurang for serving as our umpires this season I'd also like to thank all the coaches, players and the parents for their

continued support," said Jebehn yesterday in a phone interview.

Jebehn provided individual medals for the Top 3 place finishers of this year's basketball and volleyball season as well as medals to the top two softball teams. According to Jebehn, Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas was supposed to provide awards for last season's winners, but the players never received them.

Coincidentally, since the 2010 softball boys champions never received a trophy, Jebehn issued them all a set of extra medals that were left over from this year in an effort to make it up to them.

Eight teams made up both divisions. The other participating schools included San Roque Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Tanapag Elementary School, and San Vicente Elementary School.

PH OPEN

From Page 28

prizes to the Top 5 finishers in the double-peoria tournament.

The Top 3 placers will go

home with trophies and \$700, \$500, and \$400, while the fourth and fifth will take home \$200 and \$100, respectively.

Golfers also have a chance to win two hole-in-one prizes, as

\$5,000 each is at stake at hole Nos. 3 and 12. Closest to the pin contests on these two holes, along with the No. 7 and 14 holes will also take place and golfers can join the competitions by purchas-

ing a mulligan at \$5 apiece.

This year's Philippine Open is sponsored by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., Asahi Brewers Ltd., Joeten Wholesale, Pacific Wines & Spirits, Yaong Corpo-

ration, K.L. Carr Enterprises, HBR International, and Triple J Wholesale, Cosmos Distributing Co., Kautz Glass & Co., Aqua Resort Club, KWAU FM 100 Magic Radio, Ben's Internation-

al, G.E.C. Pawnshop, and Trad-ers Insurance Co.

For more information or to register, contact Malaran at 287-1227, Rick Kautz at 483-9282, or Mike Cruz at 483-7171.



Ortiz breaks loose after being hit, Boston win

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Mavs overcome James' triple-double, lead 3-2

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011

Sapong off to World Youth Championships

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI runner Reylynn Sapong will leave Saipan for France next month to compete in the 2011 IAAF World Youth Championships in Athletics.

The Marianas High School student is entered in the 100m run event of the youth competition that will run from July 6 to 10 in Lille in the northern side of France. The five-day tournament will take place at the 18,500-seater Stadium Lille Metropole-Villeneuve d'Ascq.

"I will most likely be leaving

on July. Unfortunately, I'll be traveling alone, but will meet other Oceania athletes either in Guam or Paris. I specialize in middle distance events, but will be competing in the 100m dash," Sapong said.

The 17-year-old-old runner's best time in the 100m run is 13.53 seconds, which she re-



Sapong

corded during the 2011 McDonald's-PSS All Schools Athletics Championship at the Oleai Sports Complex last month.

Her favorite event is the 400m run where her personal best time stands at 67 seconds made during the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

"As of now, I am focusing in the 100m run and I hope to im-

See SAPONG on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Chelsea coaches bat for more clinics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Chelsea FC Soccer School's Leslie George Santos and Kwon On "David" Tsui suggested that holding a lot of

clinics and training more coaches are the best ways to elevate the skills of CNMI players.

"The skills and interests are there, but the level



of play is not that high and that's understandable because I believe football in the CNMI is just starting to grow," said Tsui, the head coach of

Chelsea FC Soccer School based in Hong Kong.

Tsui led the second day of the three-day clinic on Thursday afternoon at the Oleai Sports Complex Field and met with the boys U18 and adults play-

ers from various clubs.

"It will take time to have these players improve their skills and to do that, they should be exposed to more clinics. More coaches should also be recruited to implement the program," added Tsui, who is a former Hong Kong national player.

Santos shared Tsui's observation and encouraged players, especially the new ones, to keep

See CHELSEA on Page 27

Marlins, Lady Umangs are back-to-back softball champs

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Kagman Elementary School boys softball team and Koblerville Elementary School girls softball team both clinched their second consecutive Elementary Inter-scholastic Sports Organization Slow-pitch Softball championships last Wednesday at the Dandan Elementary School Field.

The Koblerville Lady Umangs shut out the Oleai Elementary School Lady Turtles, 10-0, in the first match just before the Kagman Marlins took the field and downed the William S. Reyes Elementary School

See MARLINS on Page 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman Elementary School boys softball players flash the No. 1 sign after clinching their second consecutive Elementary Inter-scholastic Sports Organization Slow-pitch Softball championship last Wednesday against William S. Reyes Elementary School Kingfishers at the Dandan Elementary School Field.

PH Open lures 50 golfers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The 113th Philippine Independence Day Open Golf Tournament has attracted around 50 golfers and the organizing Fil-Taga Golfers Association is hoping the number will increase to 70 when the competition tees off at Coral Ocean Point tomorrow.

"Interested golfers can still register on the day of the tournament, so we hoping we could surpass last year's turnout," outgoing Fil-Taga president Ted Malaran said.

Last year, 60 golfers joined the tournament with Darrel Fair topping the field.

Malaran is encouraging CNMI golfers to support the Philippine Open, as part of the proceeds from the annual tournament will be donated to Karidat and Commonwealth junior golfer R.J. Macaranas. The 12-year-old golfer will be competing in various world championships this summer.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Open will have a shotgun start at 12pm, but participants are advised to be at the venue on or before 10am. Then at 6pm, the awards ceremony will start with Fil-Taga handing out

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